

# いちげき 3

原作・永井義男  
松本次郎





# い ち げ き

3



松本次郎  
原作・永井義男

# 一撃必殺隊



**前之助**

薩摩藩士。伊牟田に可愛がられていた。



**伊牟田**

御用盗を取り仕切る薩摩藩士の一人。



**海江田**

一撃必殺隊に対処するために呼ばれた薩摩藩士。凄腕。



**相楽**

幕府を挑発するために不逞浪士を雇い、御用盗を指揮する。



**梅吉**  
上谷郷村出身

**和三郎**  
大宮郷村出身

**千代松**  
伊豆郷村出身

**新平**  
花文郷村出身

**市造**  
土小岩村出身。侍への憧れが人一倍強い。丑五郎とは大銀の仲。

**源治**  
小倉新田出身

**米吉**

薩摩村出身。丑五郎の弟分。並々ならぬ巨漢の持ち主。大豪漢。



**勝海舟**

旗本。百姓を組織化することを発案した。



**和田六郎**

元新選組隊士。島田とともに隊士を鍛える。



**島田幸之介**

元新選組隊士。一撃必殺隊の訓練を担当する。



**与吉**

一撃必殺隊隊士の世話をする下男。



**お園**

丑五郎の馴染みの女郎。

**丑五郎**  
東一之江村出身。小柄ながら抜群の身体能力を誇り、頭の回転も速い。

これまでのあらずし  
時は幕末 大政奉還後、江戸幕府との武力決着を望む薩摩藩は幕府を挑発すべく「御用盗」なる武装集団を結成、江戸の商家を襲わせた。薩摩藩と幕府の大規模な武力衝突を避けるべく、勝海舟は力自慢の若い百姓を集め「対御用盗」特殊戦闘部隊である「一撃必殺隊」を結成する。その比類なき身体能力と新選組仕込みの実戦剣術により、めきめきと実力をつけた隊士たちは御用盗に大打撃を与える。しかし徹底した捜査により敵の正体をつかんだ薩摩藩は、岡場所で遊興中の一撃必殺隊を壊滅すべく店を包囲していた……

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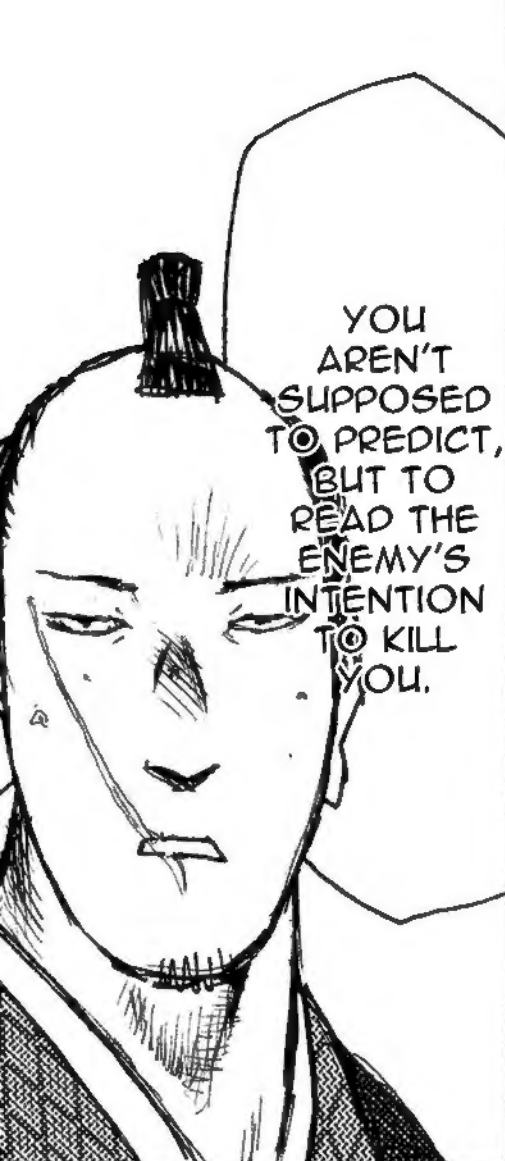
**HOW  
GRAVE  
IS THE  
SADNESS  
OF  
LOSING  
SOMEONE  
YOU  
ADORE!**



SFX:  
Rumble



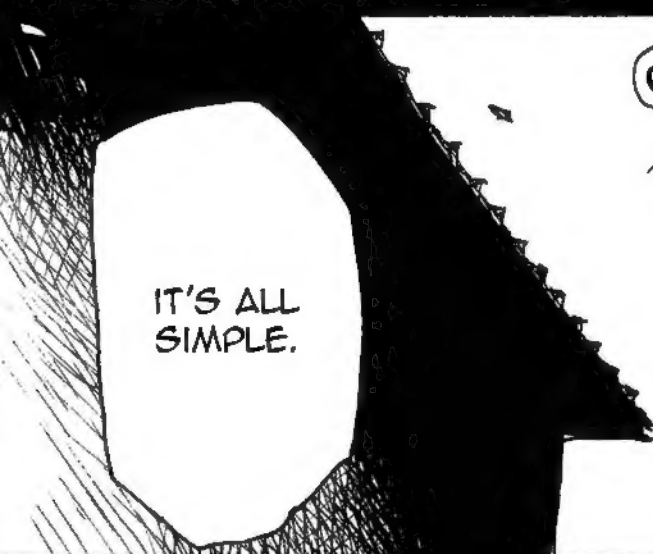




YOU  
AREN'T  
SUPPOSED  
TO PREDICT,  
BUT TO  
READ THE  
ENEMY'S  
INTENTION  
TO KILL  
YOU.

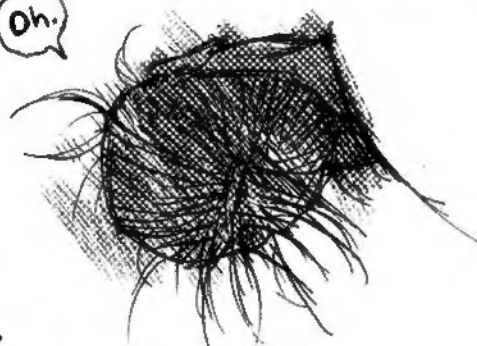


DON'T  
GET THE  
WRONG  
IDEA!

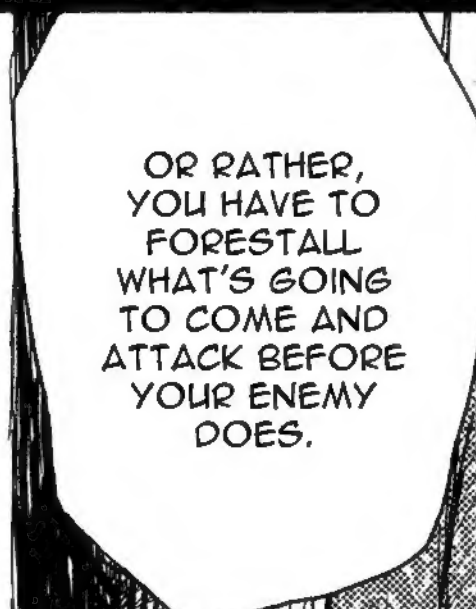


IT'S ALL  
SIMPLE.

Oh.



ONCE YOU  
KNOW THE  
WAY HE'S  
GOING TO  
ATTACK,



OR RATHER,  
YOU HAVE TO  
FORESTALL  
WHAT'S GOING  
TO COME AND  
ATTACK BEFORE  
YOUR ENEMY  
DOES.



YOU HAVE  
TO LEARN  
HOW TO  
DEFEND  
AGAINST IT  
AND LEARN  
HOW TO  
COUNTER-  
ATTACK.



YOU ARE  
MUSCULAR.

USHI-  
GOROU...

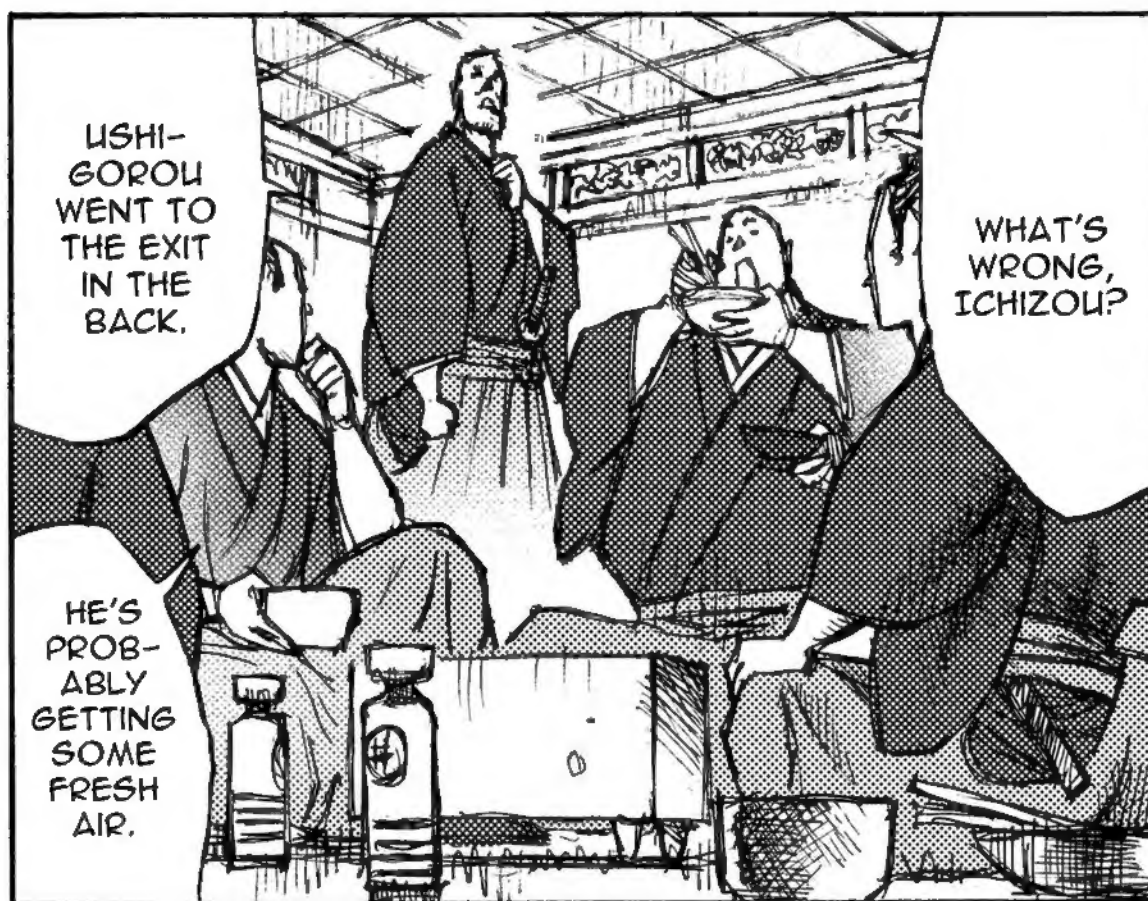


BUT...  
AM I  
CAPABLE  
OF DOING  
THAT?



I  
GOTTA  
DO IT.

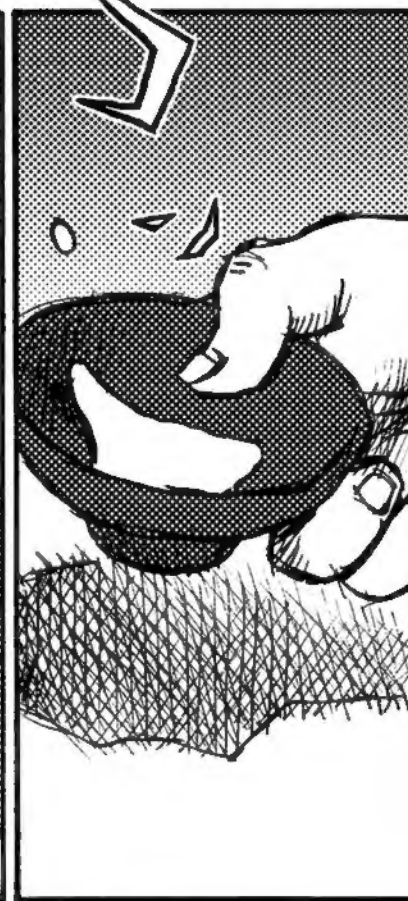




USHI-  
GOROU  
WENT TO  
THE EXIT  
IN THE  
BACK.

WHAT'S  
WRONG,  
ICHIZOU?

HE'S  
PROB-  
ABLY  
GETTING  
SOME  
FRESH  
AIR.



I'LL GO  
TAKE A  
LOOK.



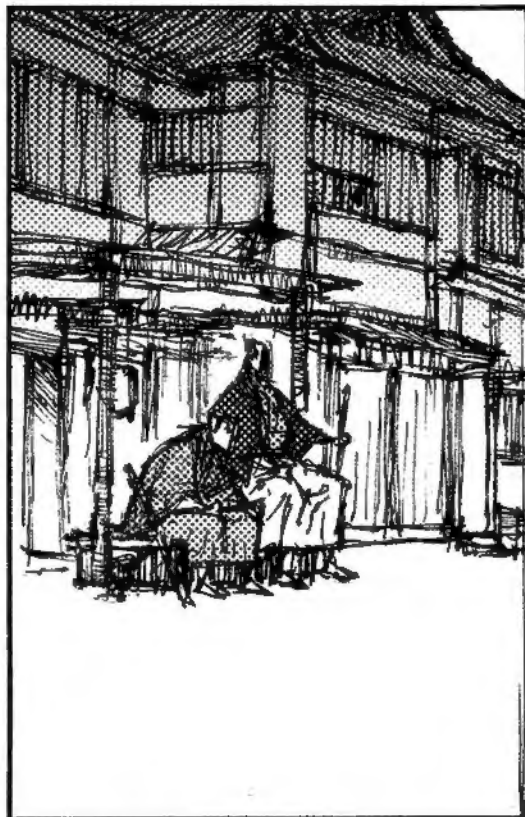
IT'S  
AGAINST  
THE UNIT  
RULES!

HE'S TAKING  
TOO LONG  
FOR THAT.  
ARE YOU  
SURE THAT  
HE DIDN'T  
SLIP OUT  
TO STROLL  
THROUGH  
THE TOWN?





SFX:  
Grrr



BUT IF HE'S  
GOING TO  
RUN, NOW  
IS THE TIME  
WHILE IMUDA  
IS STILL  
CALM.

IT  
DOESN'T  
LOOK LIKE  
THAT PEAS-  
ANT IS  
GOING TO  
MAKE A  
MOVE.



HE'S  
REALLY  
GOING TO  
KILL THAT  
PEASANT  
GUER-  
RILLA.

THAT  
BLOOD  
LUST...

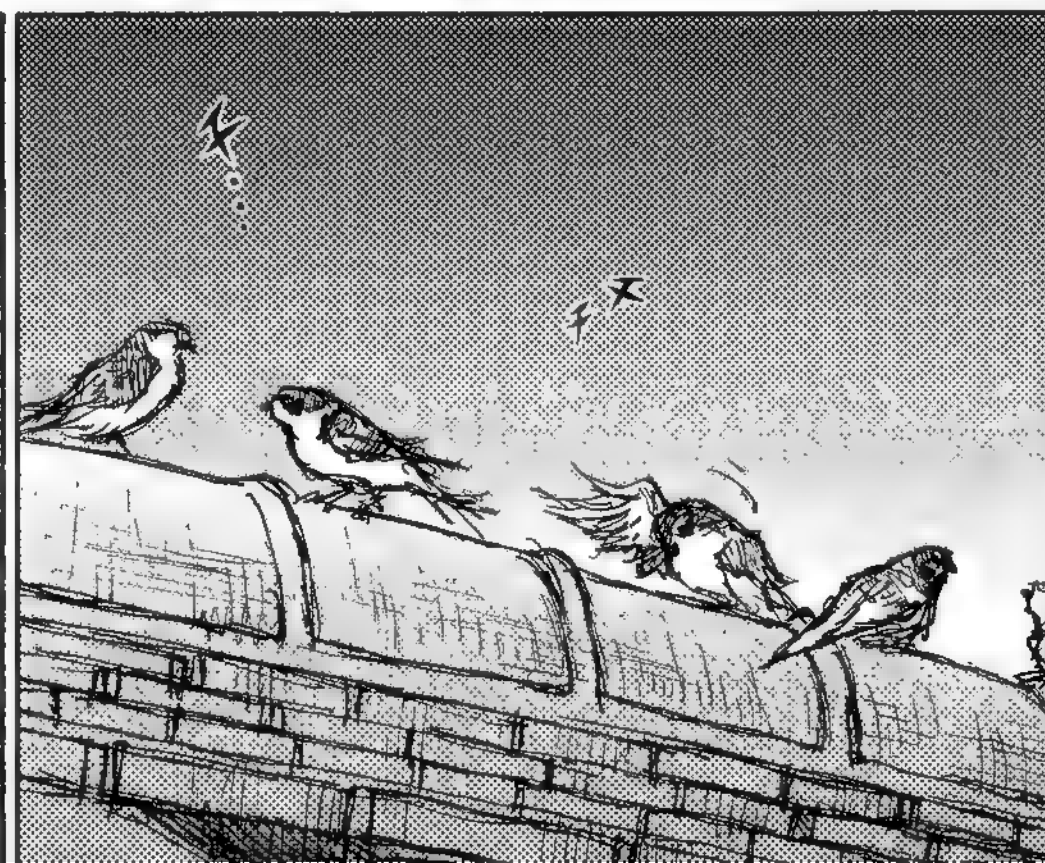


OR  
PERHAPS  
HE'S TRYING  
TO READ  
IMUDA.

I  
DOUBT  
THAT...

IS HE  
PETRIFIED  
BY FEAR  
LIKE A FROG  
THAT'S BEING  
TARGETED  
BY A  
SNAKE?





SFX:  
Chirping

SFX:  
Slam!

**USHI-  
GOROU!**



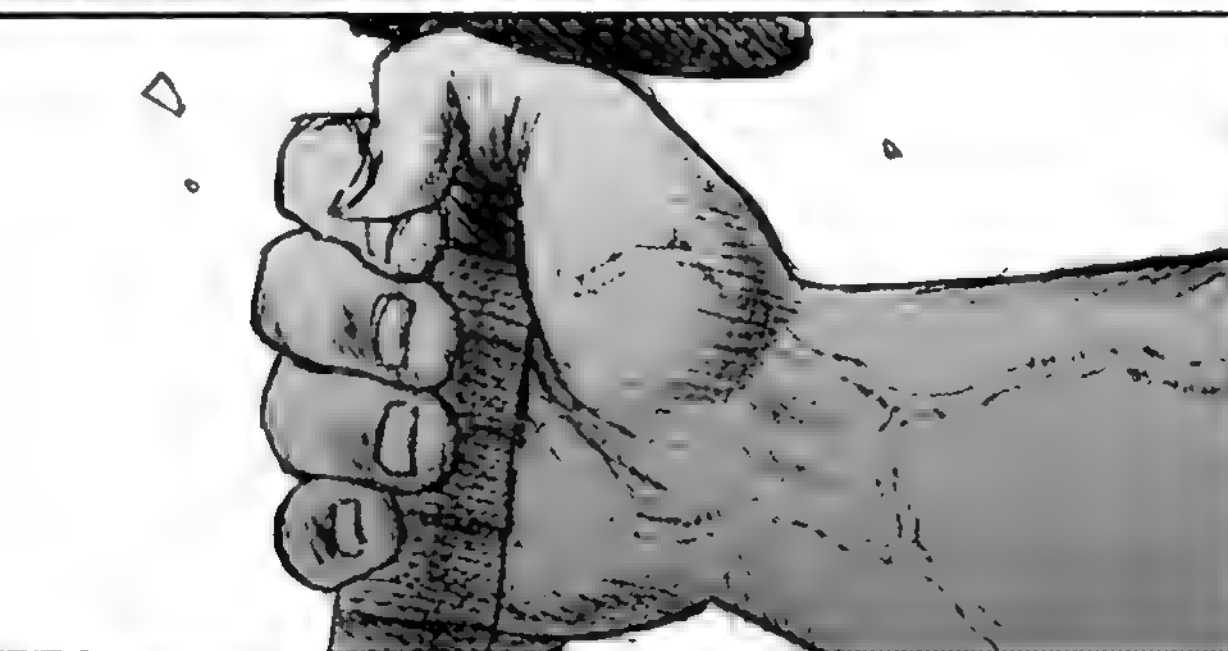
SFX:  
Flap



**ICHI...**

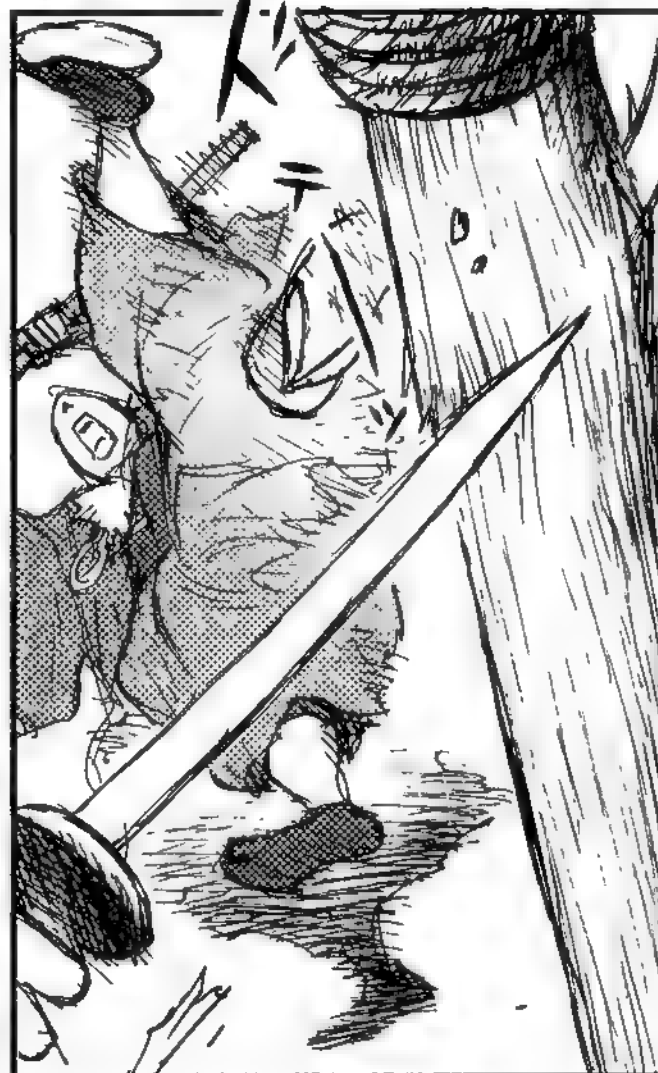
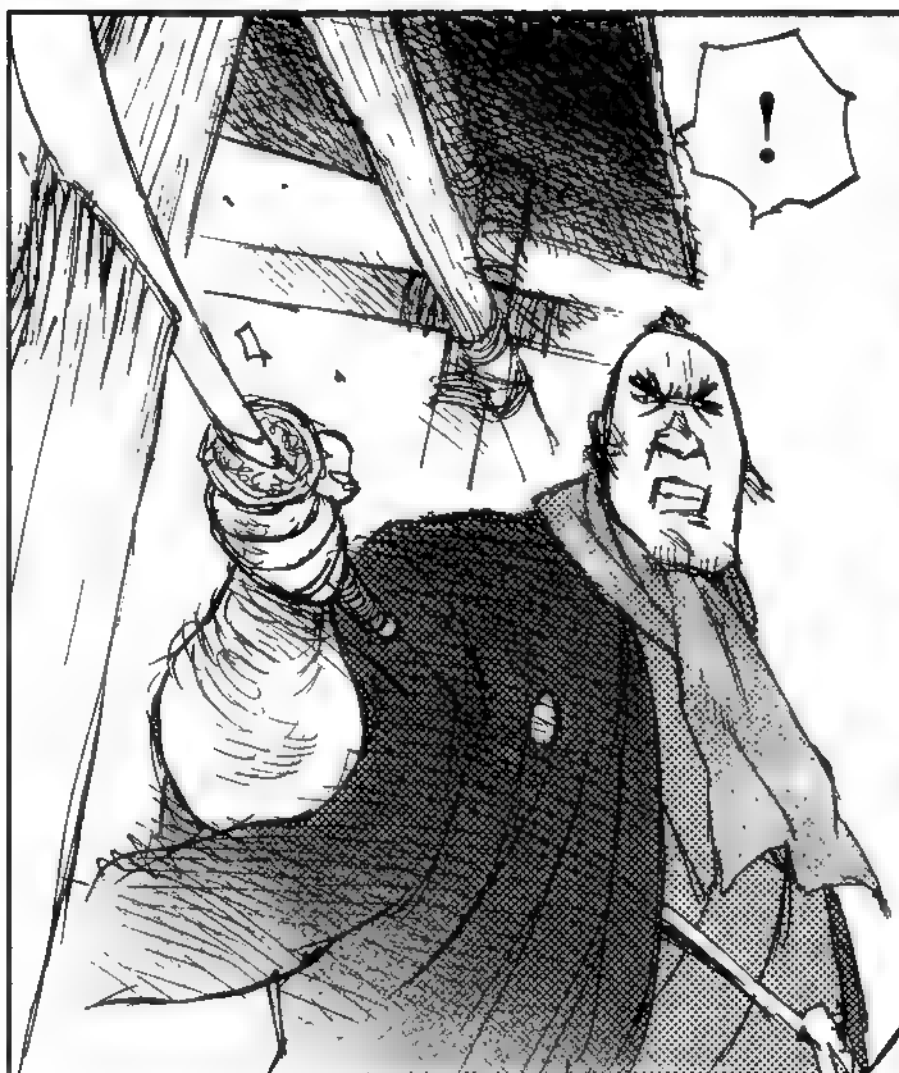










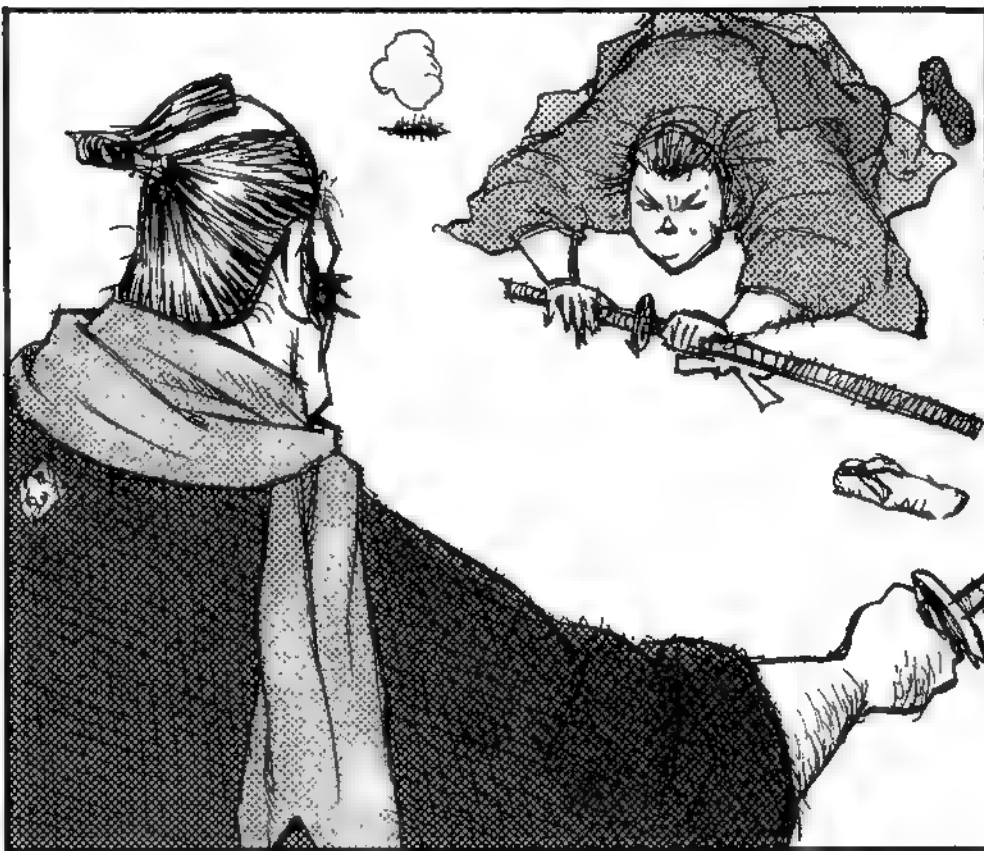


SFX:  
Falling



EVEN  
PULL MY  
SWORD  
OUT.

I-I...  
COULDN'T...



**HE'S FROM  
SATSUMA!**

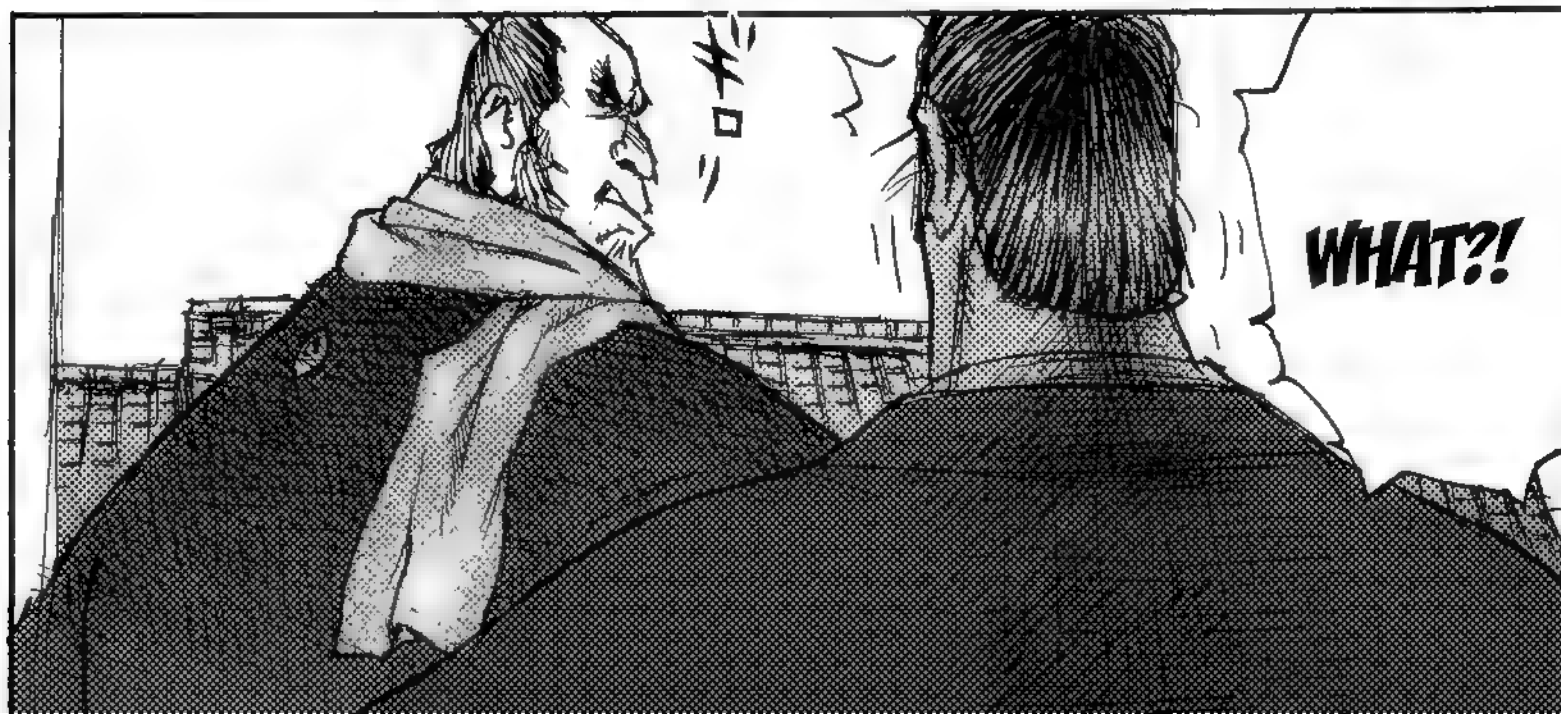
**RUN,  
YOU  
IDIOT!**



WHO'S  
THIS GUY  
WITH THE  
OPPRESS-  
ING  
LOOK?

HEY,  
USHI-  
GOROU,  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?

SFX:  
Staring  
down



**WHAT?!**



SFX:  
Running



SFX:  
Clatter

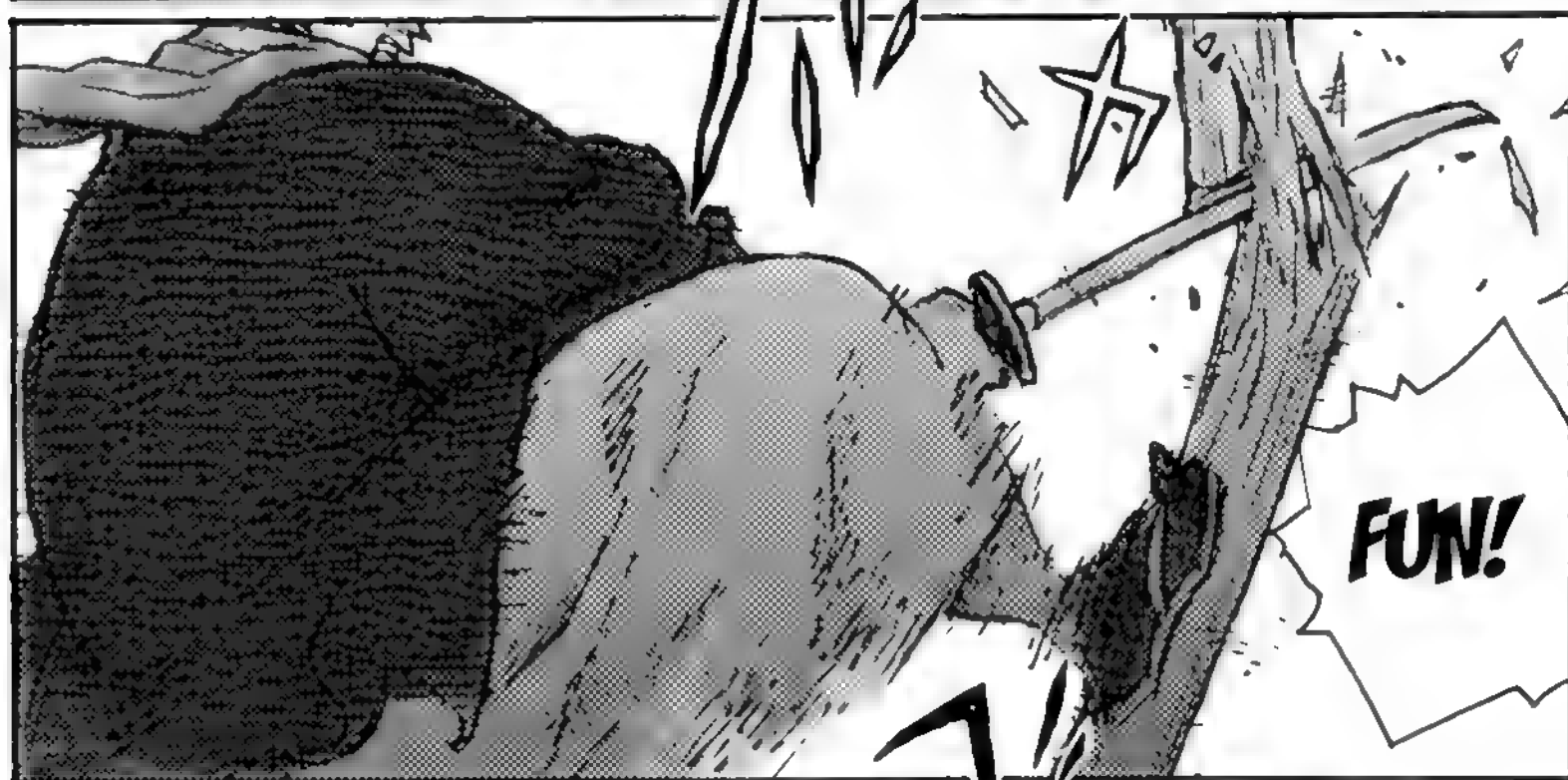


SFX:  
Creaking





SFX:  
Dash



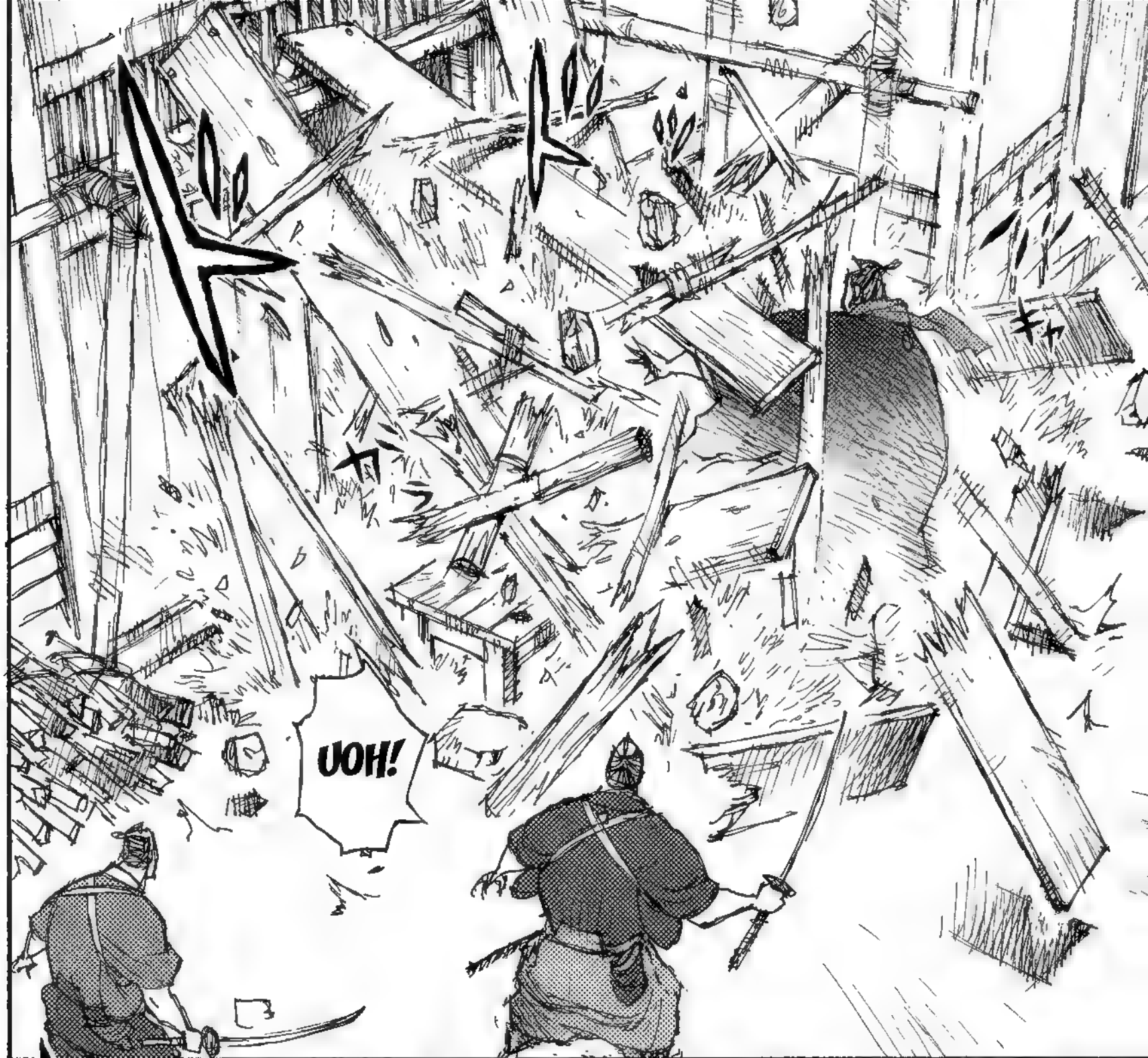
SFX:  
Snap!



SFX:  
Breathe,  
clutter



SFX:  
Wham!  
Blam!



SFX:  
Thud!



WE'RE  
CATCHING  
THE TWO  
OUTSIDE,  
AS WELL!

ALERT  
THE GUYS  
OUTSIDE!

SIR!



SFX:  
Falling  
apart



SFX:  
Whoosh!





LET UMUDA  
CHASE AFTER  
THE ONES  
THAT HAVE  
ESCAPED.

CATCHING  
THE PEASANT  
GUERRILLAS  
COMES FIRST!



STOP  
GETTING  
DRUNK AND  
MOVE!

IT'S  
SATSUMA!

SFX:  
Slide



WHERE  
ARE OUR  
SWORDS?

**RUN!**

WHA...

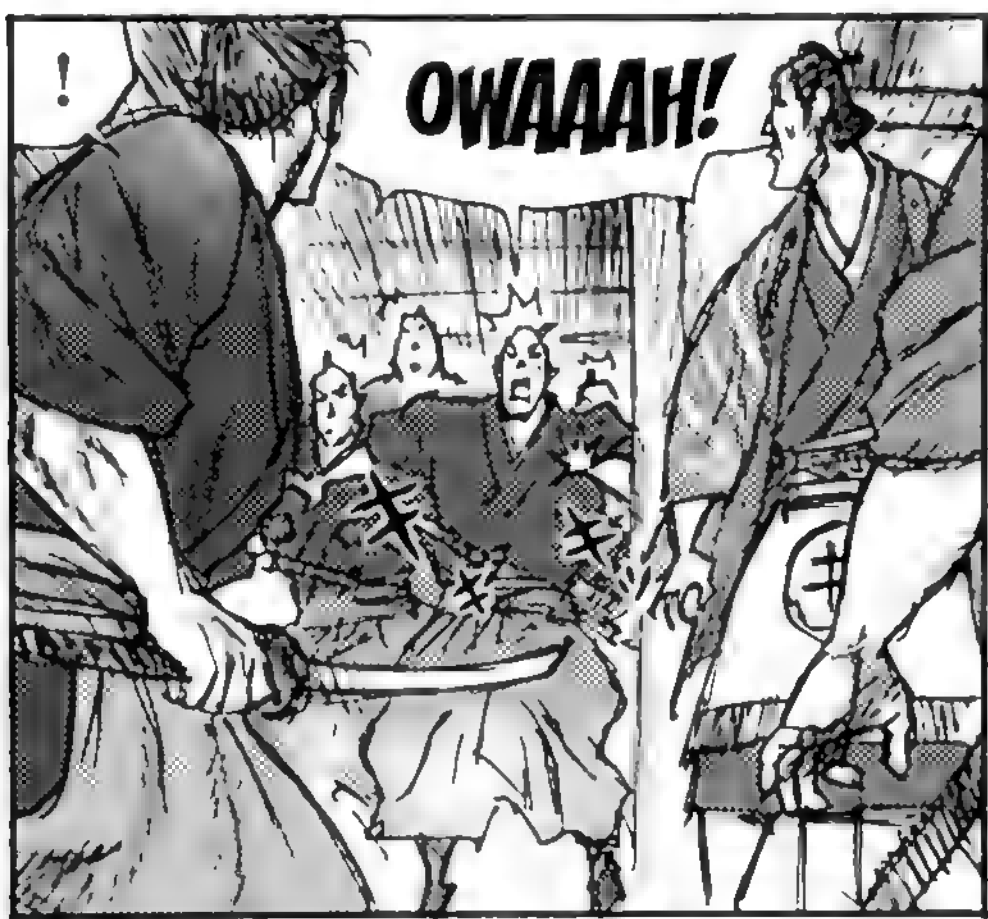
OWW!

SFX:  
Crash,  
thud,  
thump

SFX:  
Running



SFX:  
Screech



**OWAAAAH!**



P-PLEASE  
HOLD ON A  
MOMENT.  
YOU CANNOT  
CARRY  
SWORDS  
INSIDE...

IF YOU  
GET IN OUR  
WAY, WE'LL  
KILL YOU  
TOO!



WE HAVE  
THE EXITS  
BLOCKED!

**SURREN-  
DER!**



SFX:  
Stomping



BU-!

W-WE'RE  
SAND-  
WICHED!

SFX:  
Clatter,  
squish



WE'RE  
BACK IN  
OUR ROOM  
NOW!



TURN  
BACK!

THAT WAY IS  
BLOCKED...

SFX:  
Grab,  
Stab



YOU'RE CORNERED!  
THE WINDOWS IN  
THE FIRST FLOOR ALL  
HAVE A GRID! YOU  
AREN'T GETTING  
OUT OF HERE!



HIII!



WHAT  
DO WE  
DO?



**AYE!**

**OUTTA  
MY WAY!**

**LET'S GO,  
YONEKICHI!**



**DON'T  
UNDERESTI-  
MATE US!**

**HEH!**

SFX:  
Rattle



SFX:  
Kick  
wham!



**LET'S  
GO!**

SFX:  
Touch



SFX:  
Crack!  
Wham!



W-WHAT'S  
GOING ON?

KYAAH!

SFX:  
Crashing,  
thud!



SFX:  
Bounce



**THEY BROKE  
THE GRID IN  
A BLINK OF  
AN EYE...**

**THESE  
PEOPLE  
ARE UNBE-  
LIEVABLE!**



**WHAT...**



**THEY'RE  
OVER  
THERE!**

**OWW...**

SFX:  
Rattle



**AYE!**

**LET'S SCATTER!  
WE'LL REGROUP  
AT THE REN-  
DEZVOUS  
POINT!**



SFX:  
Rattle,  
Whoosh!

WHO  
ARE YOU  
CALLING  
SHIT?!

HUH?

DAMN  
PEASANT  
GUERRIL-  
LAS!

YOU  
AREN'T  
GETTING  
AWAY!

SFX:  
Toooo!  
Gasp, zip!

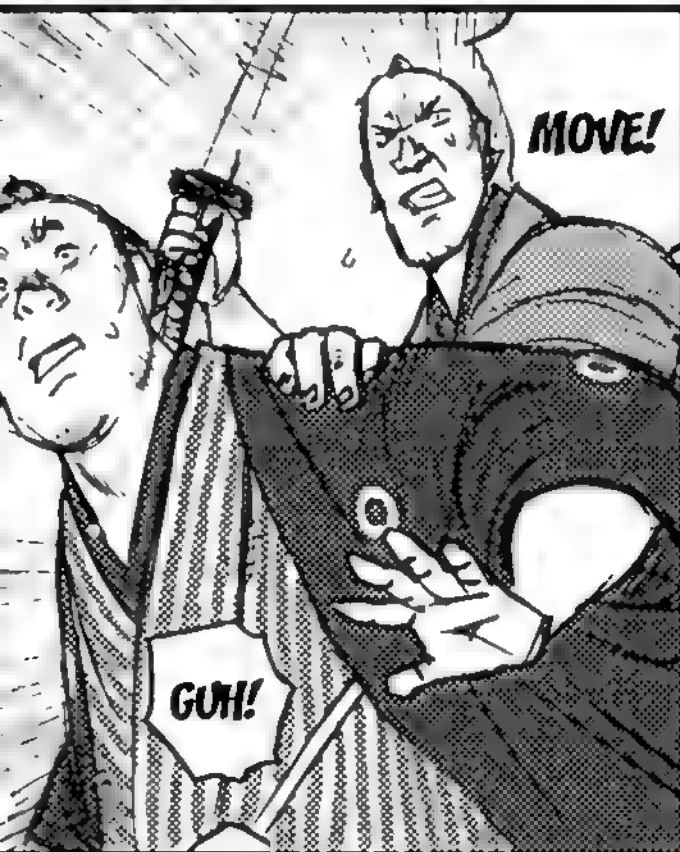
TOO



**WE AIN'T  
LOSING AT  
PLAYING  
TAG!**

**MOVE!  
MOVE!**

SFX:  
Running



**MOVE!**

**GUH!**



**HEY!  
THIS WAY,  
YOU  
PUMPKIN  
SAMURAI!**

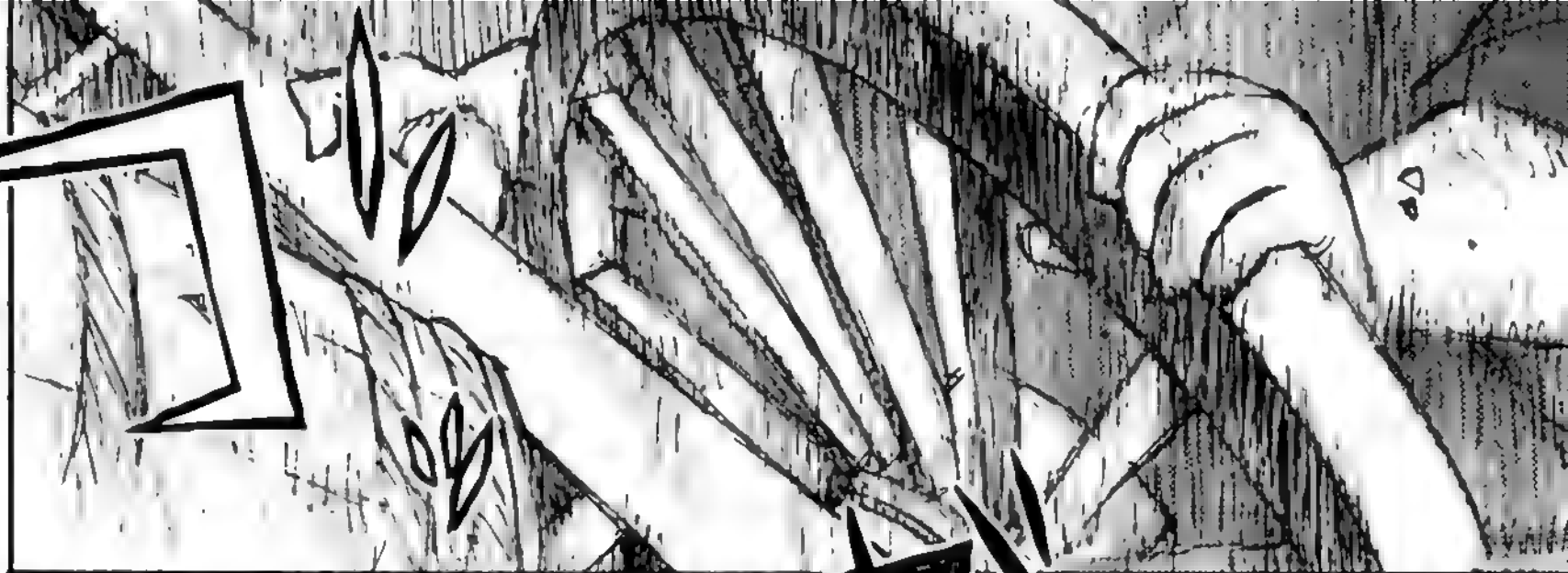


**BU!**

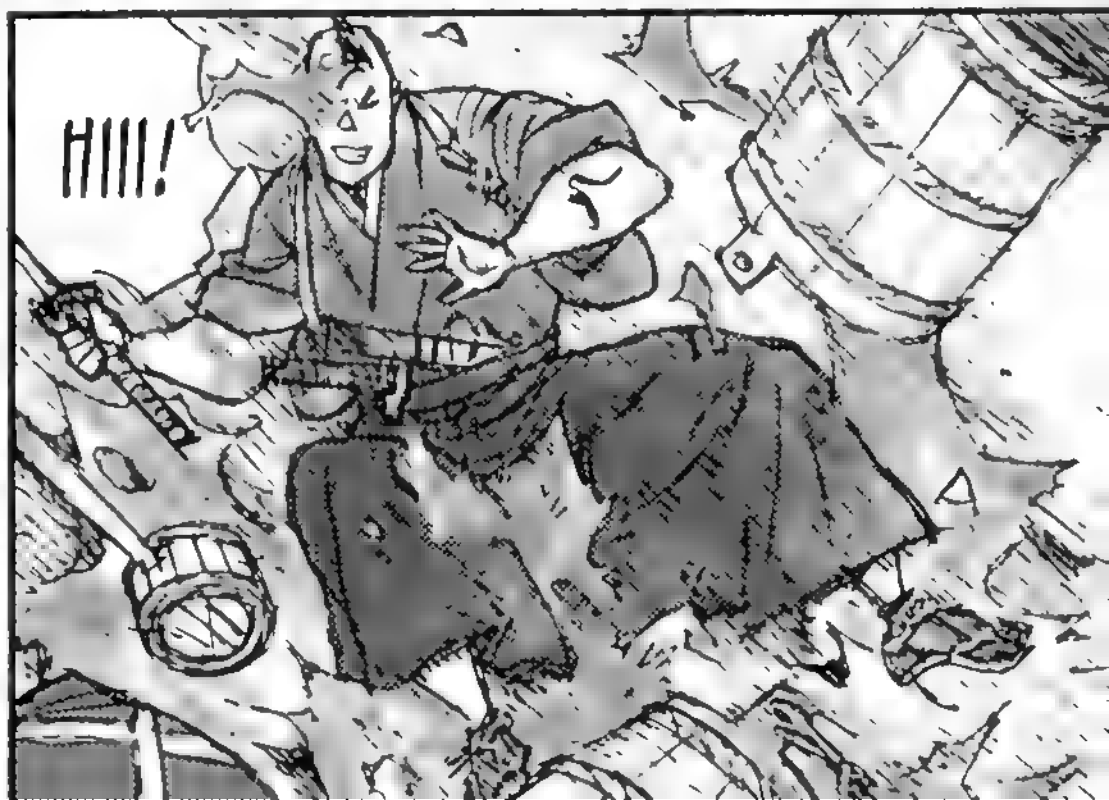
SFX:  
Running,  
colliding



SFX:  
Wham!



SFX:  
Crashing





PUTTING  
ASIDE THE  
MIDGET THAT  
DODGED  
IMUDA'S  
ATTACK...

I'M  
AMAZED  
...



SFX  
Running,  
cough



ON TOP  
OF THAT,  
THEY'RE VERY  
DISCIPLINED  
AND MADE  
SURE NOT  
TO FIGHT US  
HEAD ON.

THEY  
ALL HAVE  
EXTREMELY  
WELL-TRAINED  
BODIES AND  
GOOD REFLEX-  
ES. I CAN'T  
JUST MARK  
THEM OFF  
AS PEAS-  
ANTS.

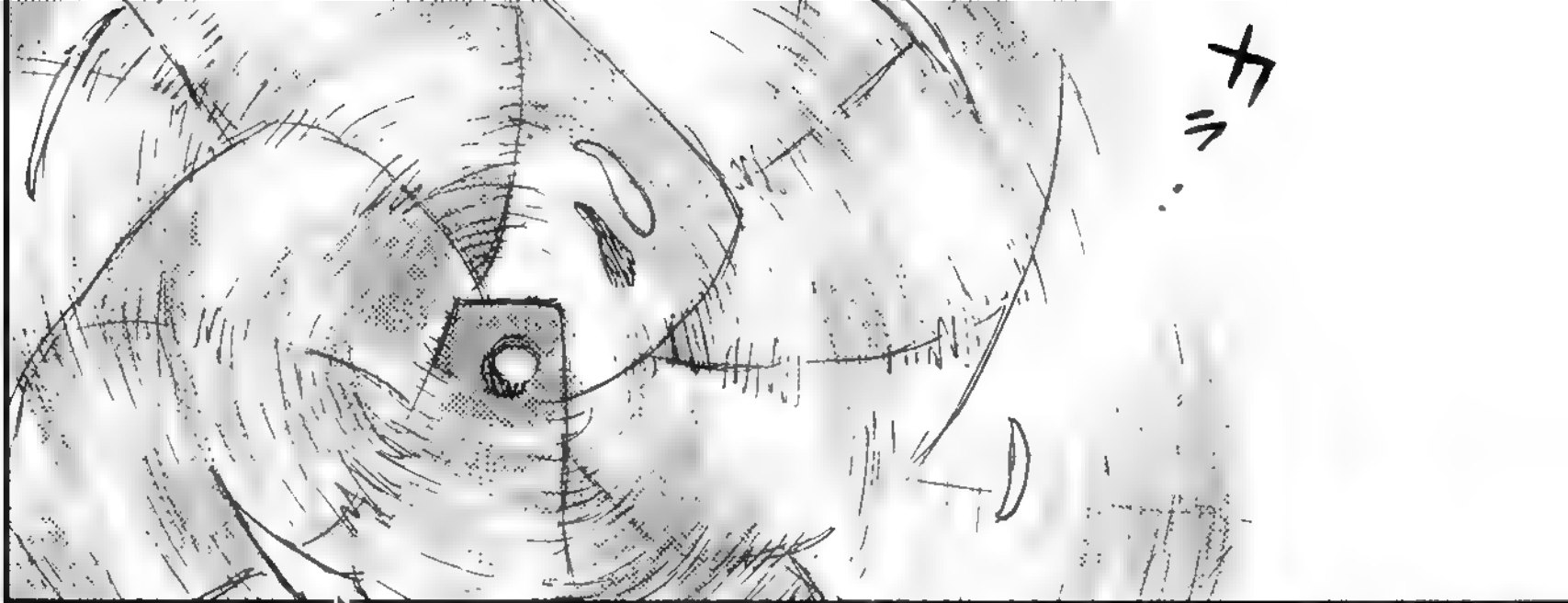


SO THAT'S  
WHY SAGARA-  
SAMA WASN'T  
INTERESTED IN  
HELPING US  
TAKE THEM  
DOWN.

BUT IF WE  
DON'T STRIKE  
NOW, AND THIS  
ENDS WITHOUT  
BLOODSHED,  
IT WILL AFFECT  
THE MORALE  
OF THE LINE  
TROOPS.

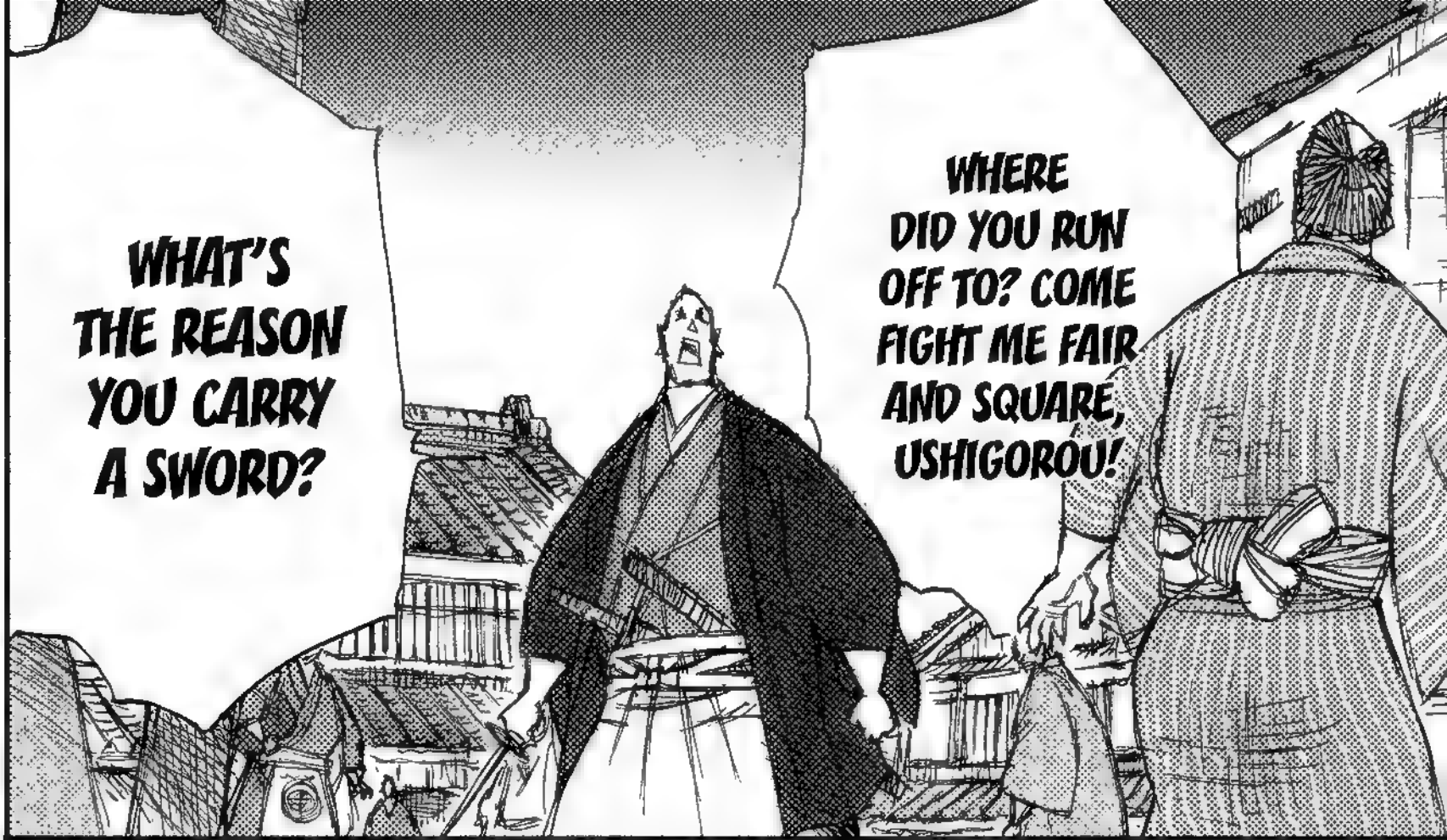
IT'LL BE  
VERY HARD  
TO FIGHT THEM,  
SO IT DOESN'T  
MAKE MUCH  
SENSE TO  
ENGAGE





SFX:  
Clicking





**WHAT'S  
THE REASON  
YOU CARRY  
A SWORD?**

**WHERE  
DID YOU RUN  
OFF TO? COME  
FIGHT ME FAIR  
AND SQUARE,  
USHIGOROU!**



**YOU'LL BE  
REGRETTING  
THIS!**

**ARE YOU  
SAYING THAT  
YOU VALUE  
YOUR LIFE  
OVER  
THEIRS?**



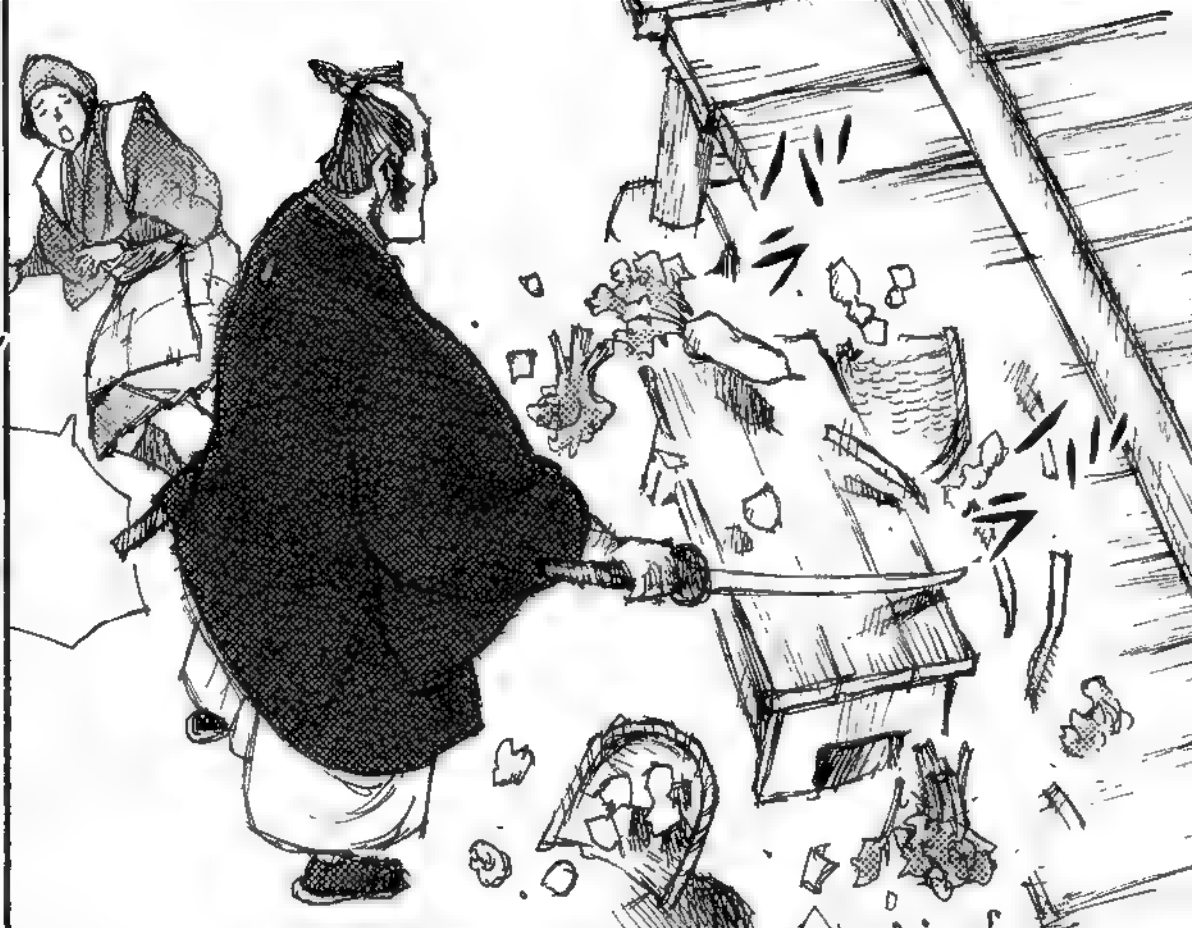
**IF YOU DON'T  
FIGHT ME  
RIGHT HERE,  
RIGHT NOW,  
SOMEONE ELSE  
IS GOING TO  
PAY FOR THIS.**



**TSK!**



SFX:  
Rustle,  
Fwump!



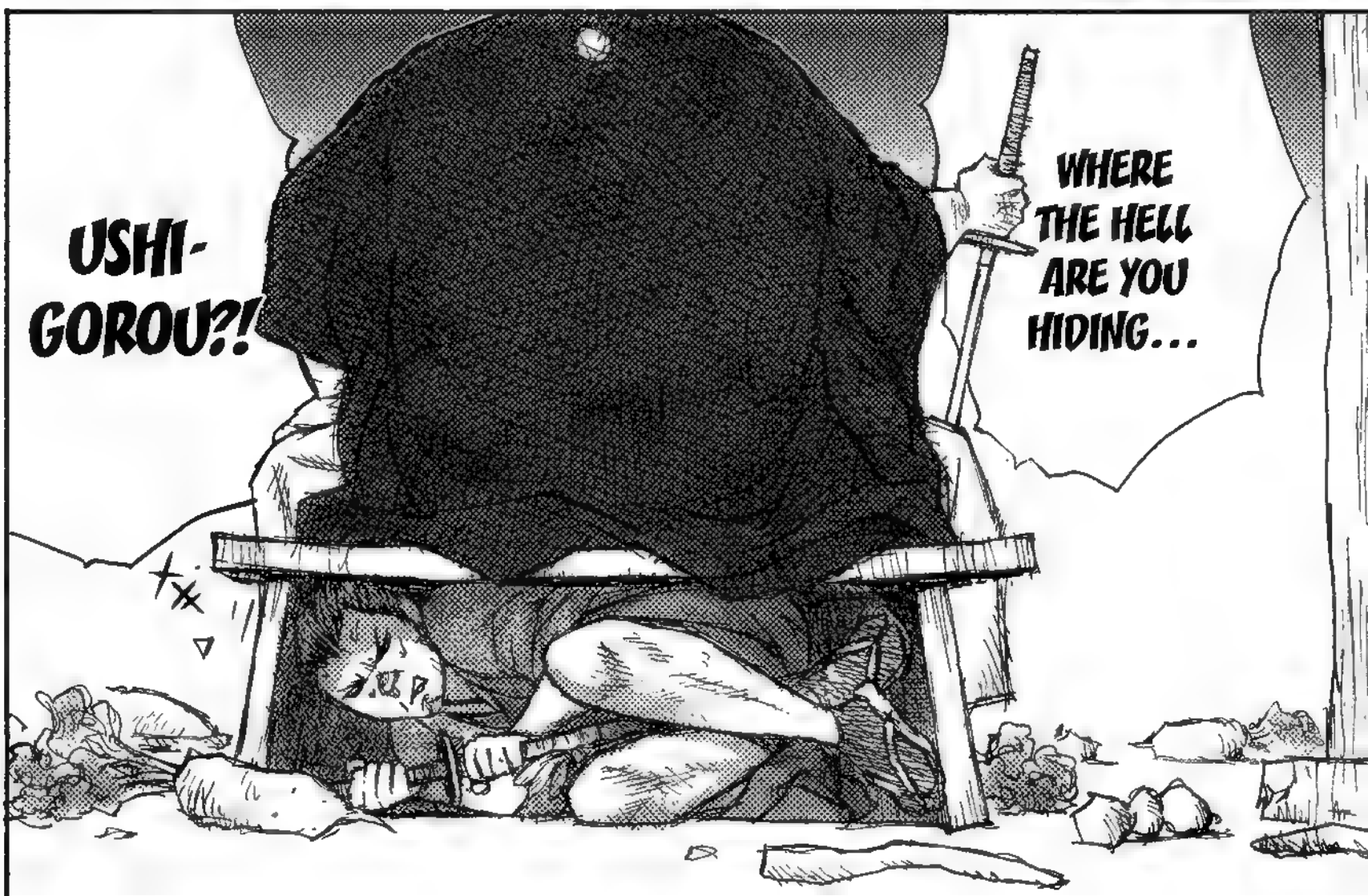
HE  
COULDN'T  
HAVE GONE  
THAT FAR...



**USHI-  
GOROU?!**

**WHERE  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
HIDING...**

SFX:  
Creak





**CHAPTER 14 CHIYOMATSU**





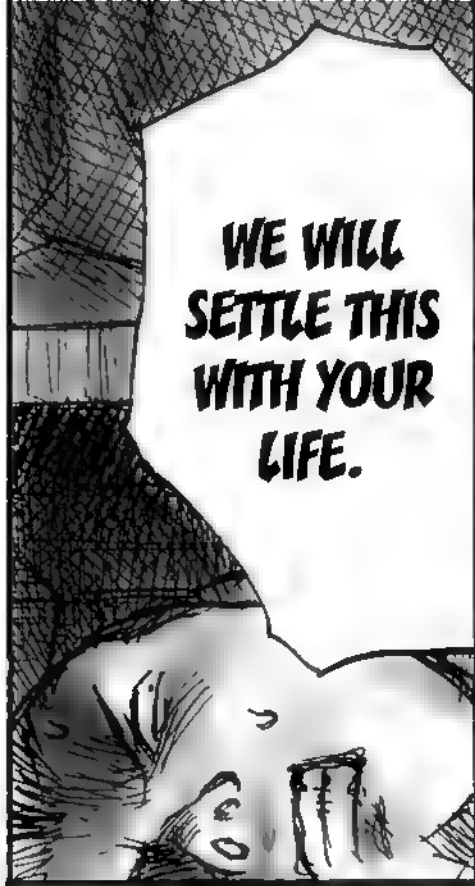
HE  
COULDN'T  
HAVE GONE  
THAT FAR...

THAT'S  
WEIRD...



**COME  
OUT,  
USHI-  
GOROU!**

**WHERE  
THE HELL  
ARE YOU  
HIDING?**

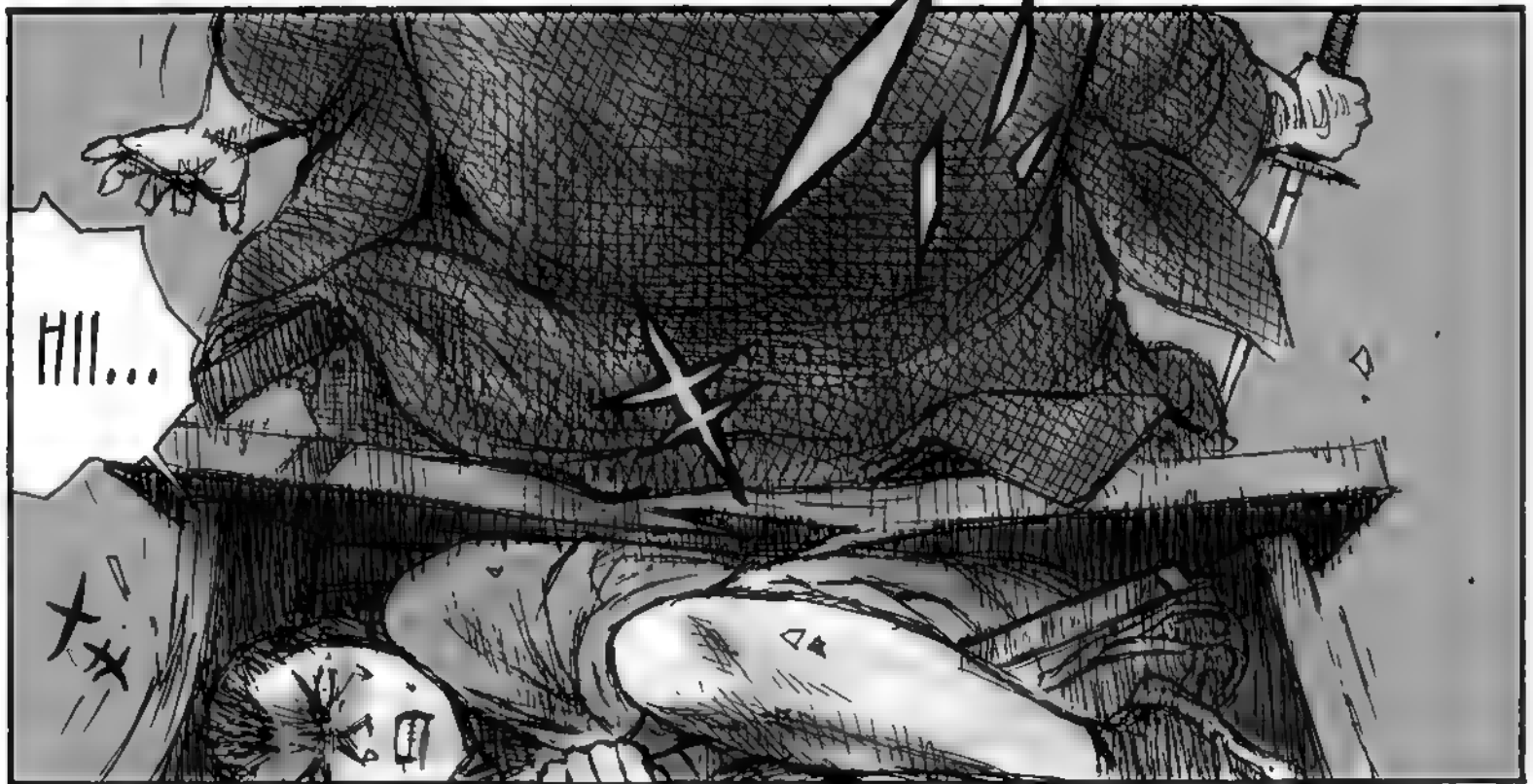


**WE WILL  
SETTLE THIS  
WITH YOUR  
LIFE.**



**YOU'LL  
REGRET IT  
IF YOU  
DON'T  
COME OUT  
NOW.**

**I'LL  
SAY IT  
ONCE  
MORE.**



HII...

SFX:  
CRACK  
creak



.....



MM?





**SAMU-  
RAI!**

**OI!**

SFX:  
Sniff...

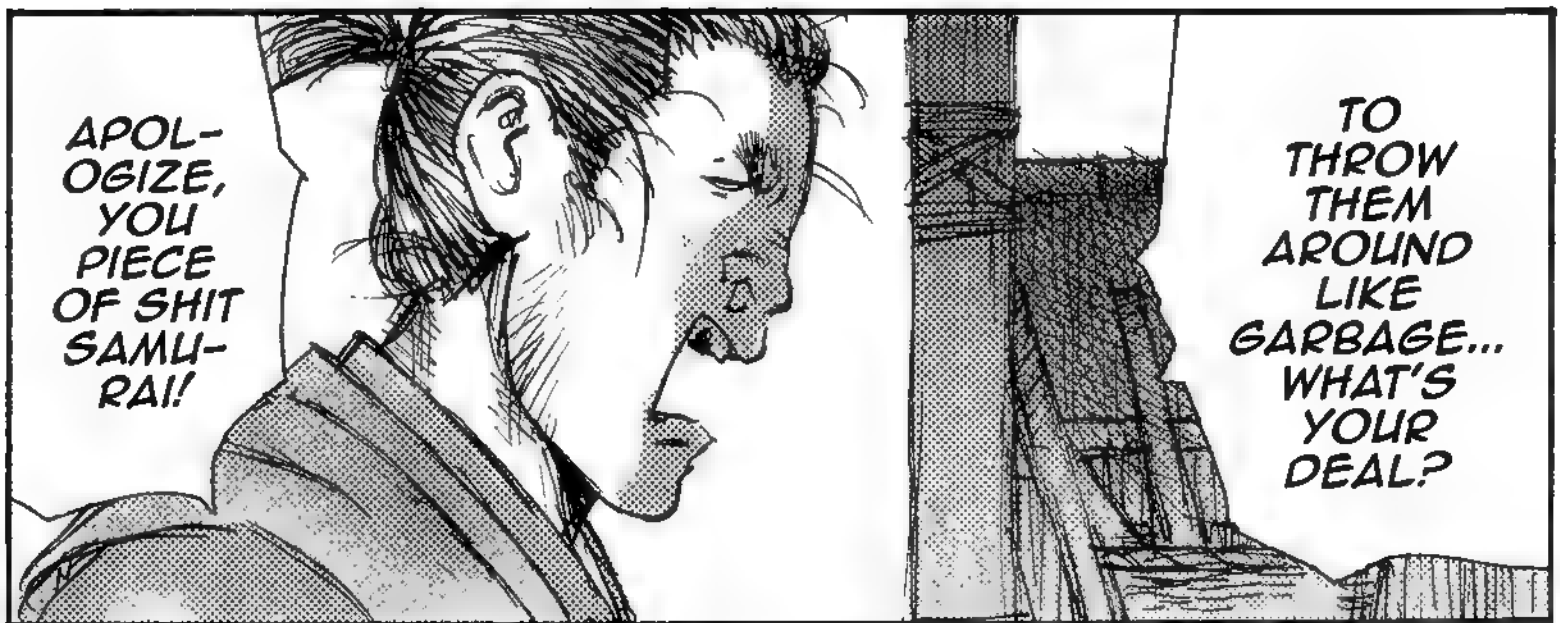


**WHAT?**



MY MAMA  
WENT OUT  
EVERY DAY  
TO THE FIELDS  
FROM DAWN  
TO DUSK TO  
GROW THOSE  
VEGETA-  
BLES.

THOSE  
VEGETABLES  
ON TOP OF  
THAT STAND  
WERE VEGE-  
TABLES MY  
MAMA  
GREW.



APOL-  
OGIZE,  
YOU  
PIECE  
OF SHIT  
SAMU-  
RAI!

TO  
THROW  
THEM  
AROUND  
LIKE  
GARBAGE...  
WHAT'S  
YOUR  
DEAL?



THAT'S  
NOT THE  
PROBLEM,  
MOTHER!  
THE ONE  
CAUSING  
THE  
PROB-  
LEM IS  
HIM!



HOW  
COULD  
YOU SAY  
SUCH  
THINGS  
ABOUT  
THIS SIR  
SAMU-  
RAI...

WH-  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING,  
KAME-  
YOSHI!?



WHETHER  
THEY'RE  
SAMURAI OR  
NOT, I CAN'T  
FORGIVE  
SOMEONE  
WHO  
WASTES  
YOUR  
VEGETA-  
BLES!

SFX:  
creak,  
stand



SFX:  
Ching



KAMEYOSHI  
DOES NOT  
YET UNDER-  
STAND HIS  
PLACE...

P-P-P-  
PLEASE  
FORGIVE US,  
OH MASTER  
SAMURAI!



AGITATED  
OR NOT,  
WHAT I  
DID WAS  
UNFORGIV-  
ABLE.

FOR  
YOU TO  
APOLOGIZE  
WOULD BE  
UNREASON-  
ABLE.



WILL  
THAT BE  
ENOUGH?

I WILL  
PAY  
FOR THE VEGETA-  
BLES.

\*Author's  
note:  
Masurao =  
A splendid  
man  
A man  
who has  
courage  
and  
strength.

TRUE  
MASURAO  
ARE HARD  
TO FIND,  
WHETHER  
THEY ARE  
PEASANTS  
OR SAMU-  
RAI.

YOU  
HAVE A  
GOOD  
LOOK.

SFX:  
BANG

WHO  
SIMPLY  
WEAR A  
SWORD  
AND RUN  
AWAY!

IT'S A BIG  
DIFFERENCE  
COMPARED  
TO THOSE  
FODDER  
SAMURAI

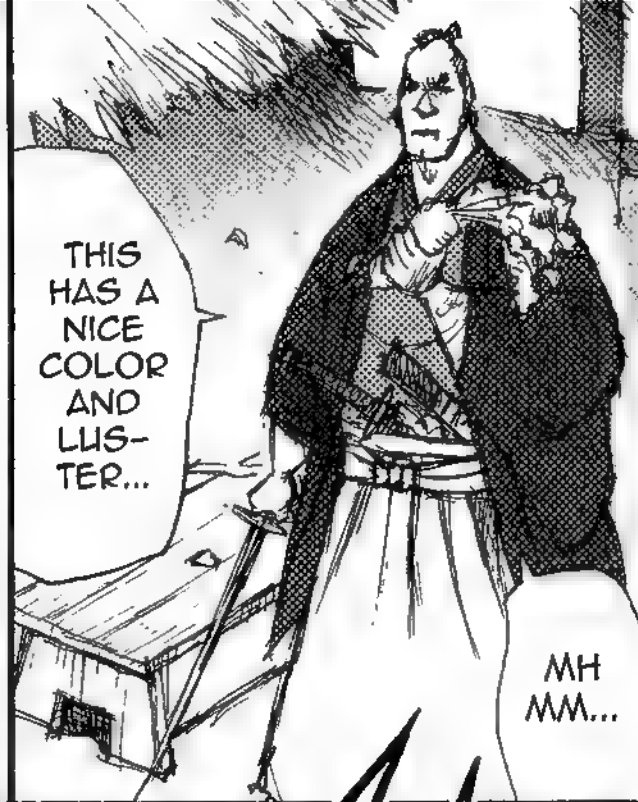
SFX:  
Grab





BECOME A  
SPLENDID  
PEASANT,  
KID.

I WILL  
GRATE-  
FULLY  
RECEIVE  
THIS.

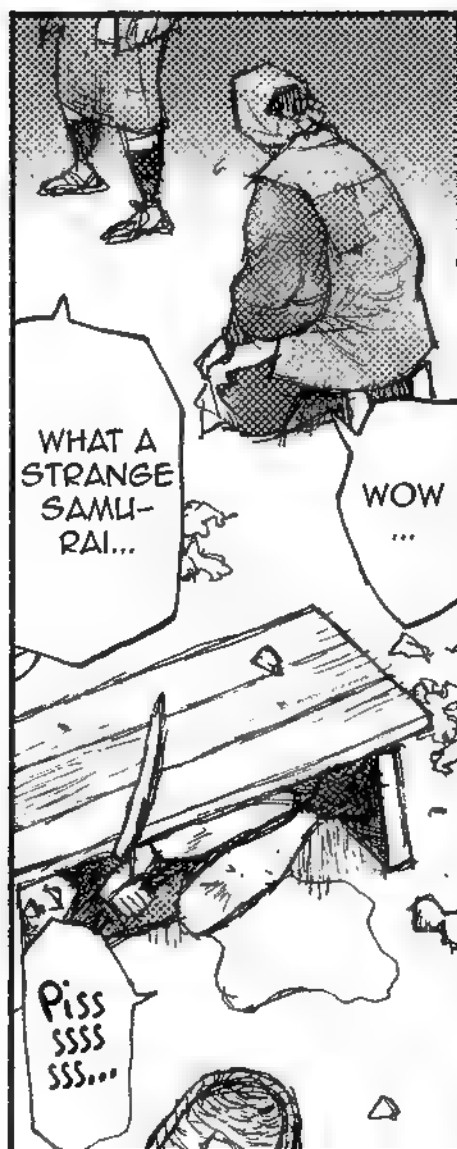


THIS  
HAS A  
NICE  
COLOR  
AND  
LUS-  
TER...

MH  
MM...



SFX:  
CRUNCH



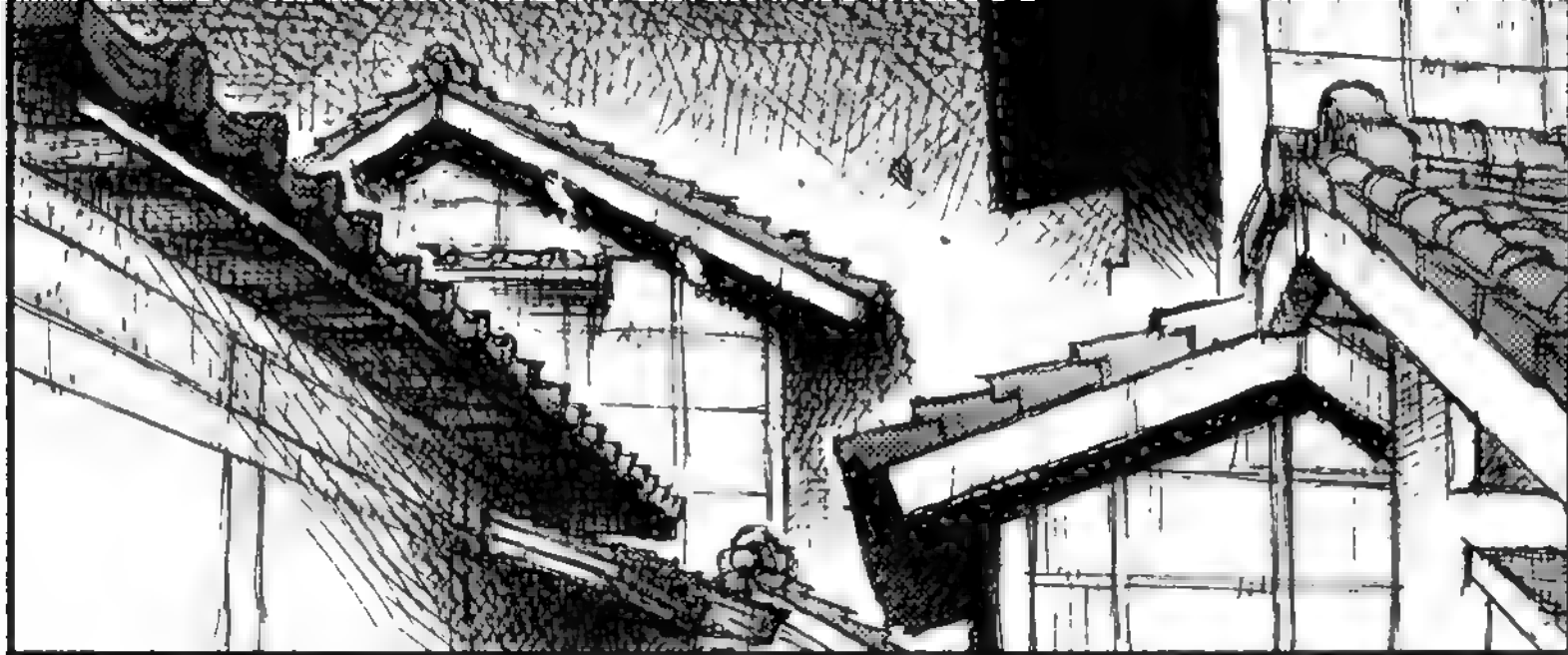
WHAT A  
STRANGE  
SAMU-  
RAI...

WOW  
...

Piss  
SSSS  
SSS...



SFX:  
crunch  
crunch





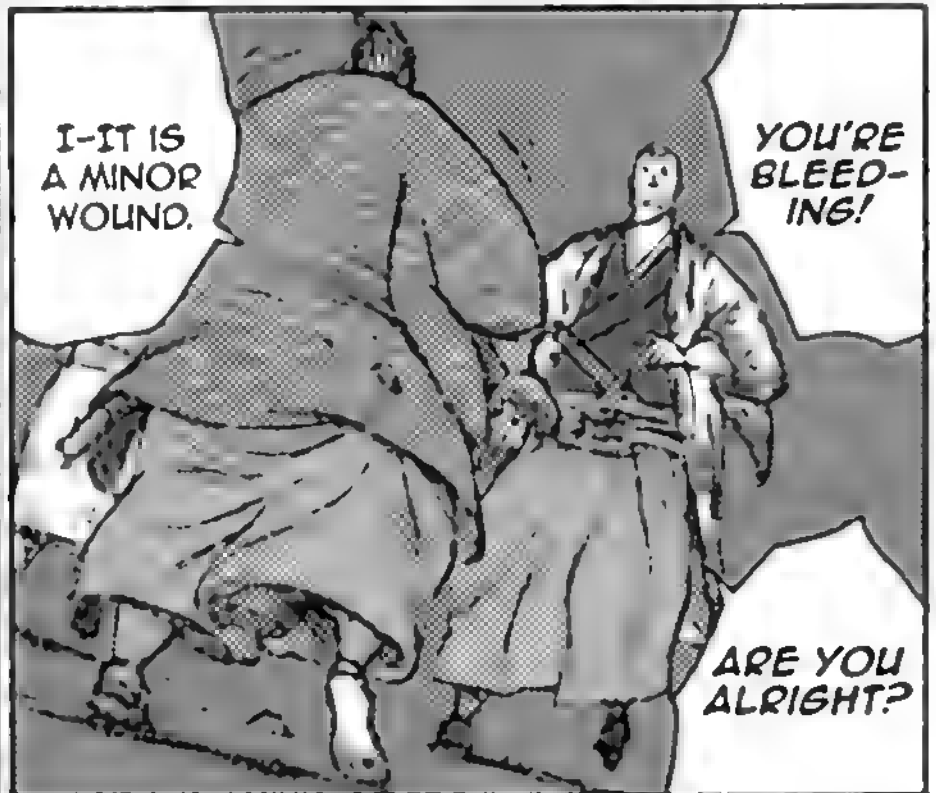




**WASA-  
BUROU!**



**HEY, WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO CHIYO-  
MATSU?**



**I-IT IS  
A MINOR  
WOUND.**

**YOU'RE  
BLEED-  
ING!**

**ARE YOU  
ALRIGHT?**



**HE GOT  
CAUGHT  
BY THE  
SATSUMA.**

**WHAT...**

**W-  
WELL...**





SFX:  
Staggering





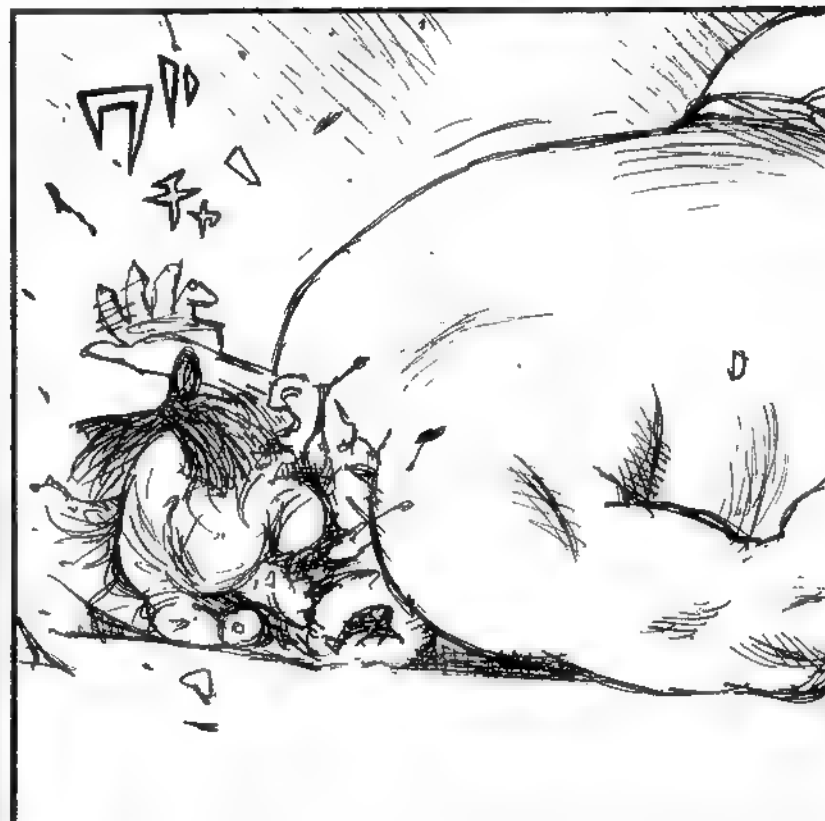
YOU  
PEASANT  
GUER-  
RILLA!

STOP  
FUCKING  
WALKING!



I DON'T HAVE  
ANY FRONT  
TEETH NOW...

CAUSED  
SO MUCH  
TROU-  
BLE...



SFX:  
Splat



HOWEVER,  
WE STILL  
HAVE A  
MOUNTAIN  
OF THINGS  
TO ASK...  
YOU'LL BE  
COMING  
WITH US.

WE KNOW  
THAT YOU  
GUYS ARE  
PEASANTS.  
WE ALSO IN-  
VESTIGATED  
YOUR NAMES  
AND WHAT  
VILLAGES  
YOU CAME  
FROM.

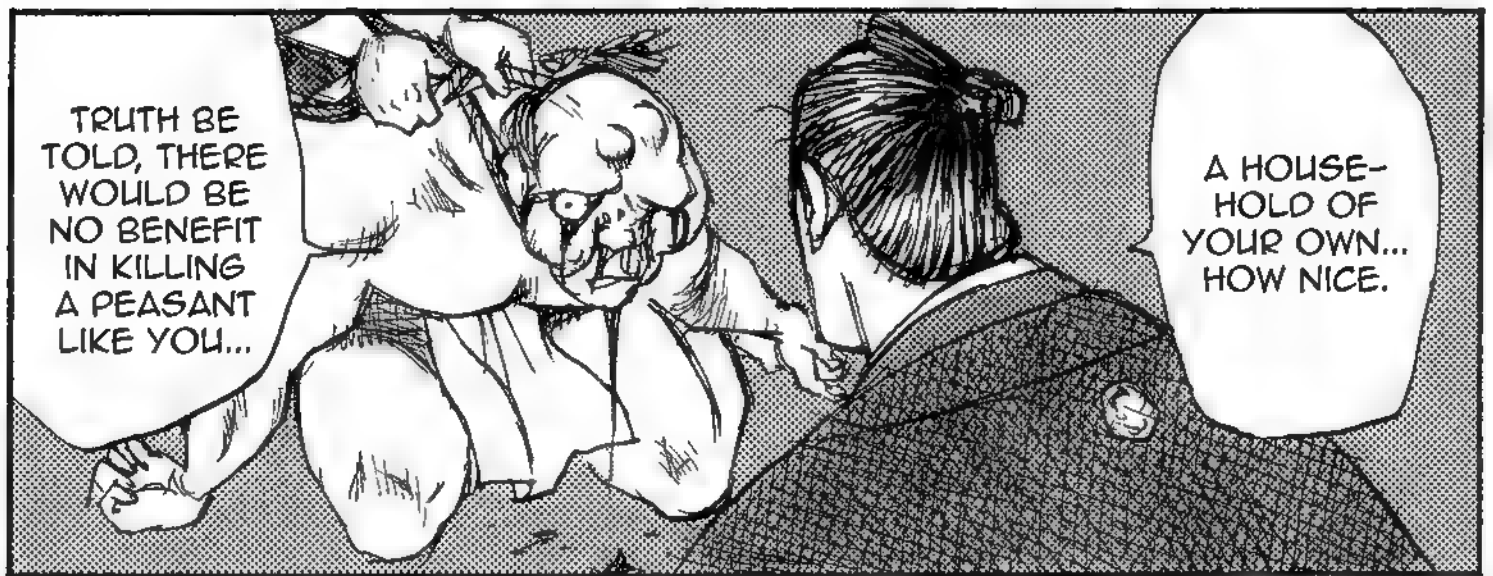


I-I'M JUST  
A SIMPLE  
PEASANT.

P-PLEASE  
STOP  
HURTING  
ME.











START  
MAKING  
PREPARA-  
TIONS.

WE CAN  
TURN THE  
TABLES ON  
THEM, OR  
POSSIBLY  
EVEN CAP-  
TURE THEM  
ALIVE.

YES  
SIR!

...



THAT'S  
OUR  
GOAL.

HIS  
ALLIES  
MAY  
TRY TO  
RESCUE  
HIM.



IT'S  
SATSUMA  
AGAIN...



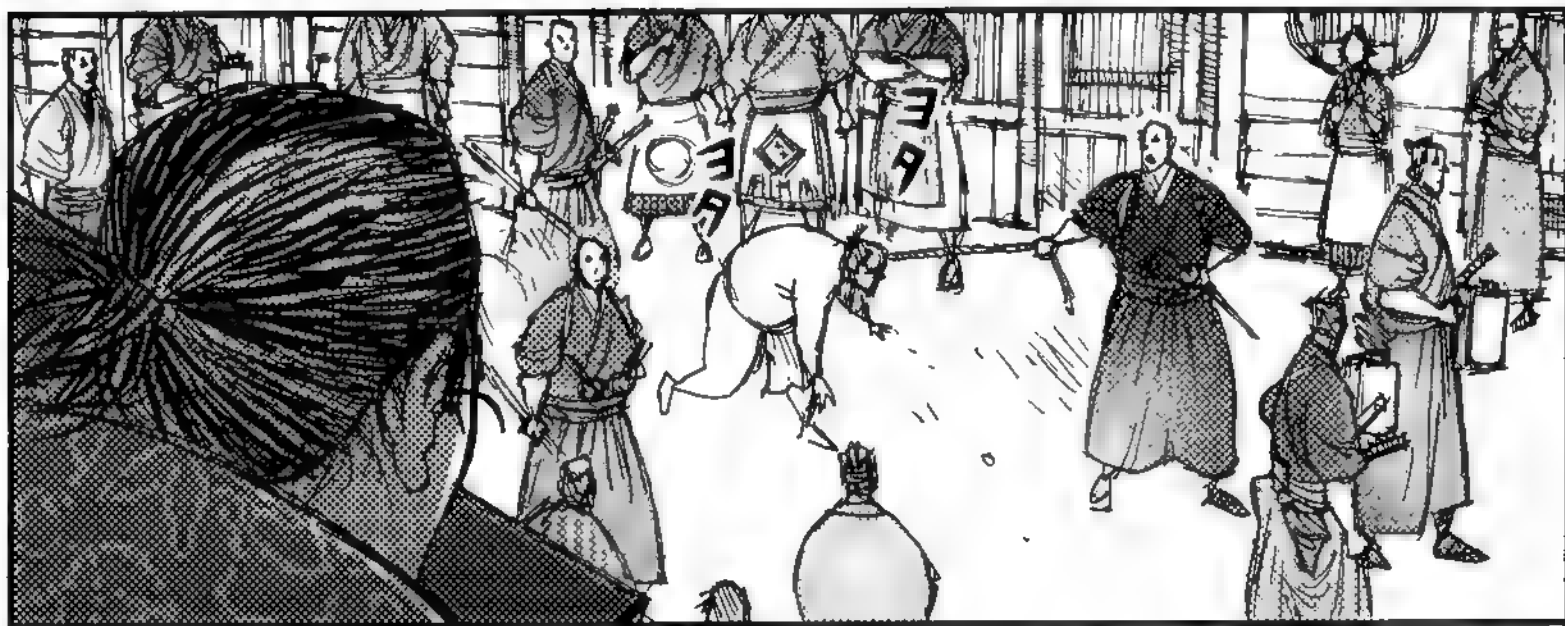
THEY DO  
WHATEVER  
THEY WANT.

AS USUAL  
THE SHIN-  
CHUGUMI  
HAVEN'T  
TURNED UP...



WHAT THE  
HELL...?  
THAT'S  
HORRIBLE.

YOU  
CAN SEE  
BONES  
FROM  
BOTH  
ARMS.



SFX:  
Wobble,  
Wobble





SFX:  
Step,  
step



NOT ONLY IS THERE A CROWD OF PEOPLE, BUT THE SUN IS SETTING TOO.

THE MAIN ROAD...



IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE USING THE MAIN ROAD TO GET BACK TO THEIR ESTATE.

HUP!

HOW IS IT?



THEN WE CAN CUT DOWN A BUNCH OF THEM!

WE'LL BLEND IN WITH THE ON-LOOKERS, CLOSE IN ON SATSUMA, AND RESCUE CHIYO!

YEAH!

THEY'RE JUST ASKING FOR WHAT WE'RE GOOD AT, THE SURPRISE ATTACK!







A SUR-  
PRISE  
ATTACK  
WON'T  
WORK.

THEY'RE  
WATCHING  
TO SEE IF  
WE DO COME  
OUT TO  
RESCUE  
CHIYO.



A TRAP...

THIS  
IS A  
TRAP.

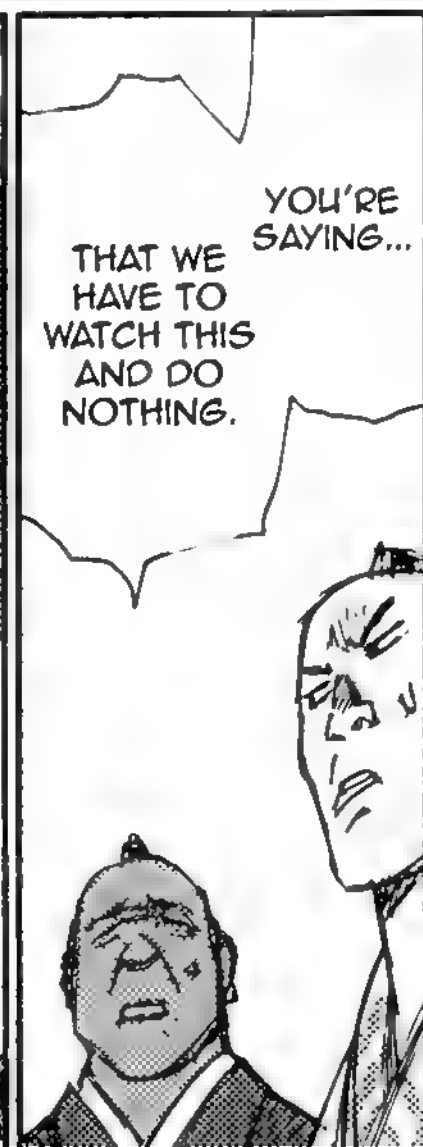


FIGURE  
SOME-  
THING  
OUT!

OI USHI,  
YOU'RE  
SMART  
AREN'T  
YOU!



THOSE  
GUYS FROM  
SATSUMA ARE  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT TO  
THE RONIN  
FROM  
BEFORE.



YOU'RE  
SAYING...  
THAT WE  
HAVE TO  
WATCH THIS  
AND DO  
NOTHING.

BUT  
STILL...



THIS IS  
TROUBLE-  
SOME.

.....



EVEN IF  
WE CAN  
RUN AWAY  
FROM THEM,  
GETTING INTO  
A SWORD  
FIGHT WOULD  
BE DAN-  
GEROUS.

LET'S SAY  
WE BARGE IN  
AND ATTACK  
THE SATSUMA  
SAMURAI, WHO  
ARE READY  
AND WAITING  
FOR US.

DO YOU  
THINK  
WE'LL  
ESCAPE  
WITHOUT  
INJURY?



CARRYING  
HIM AND  
RUNNING  
AWAY  
WOULD BE  
IMPOS-  
SIBLE.

AND  
EVEN IF  
WE DID  
RESCUE  
CHIYO-  
MATSU...



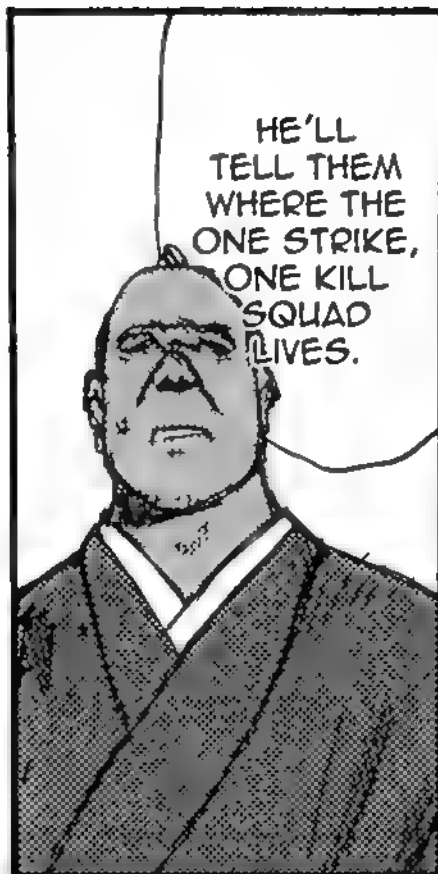
OH...

That's  
right...

WE ONLY  
HAVE TWO  
KATANAS  
AND A  
WAKIZASHI  
RIGHT  
NOW.

TL/N: A  
wakizashi  
is a short  
sword,  
usually  
carried by  
samurai





HE'LL  
TELL THEM  
WHERE THE  
ONE STRIKE,  
ONE KILL  
SQUAD  
LIVES.



THERE'S  
NO WAY  
CHIYOMATSU  
WILL BE  
ABLE TO  
DEAL WITH  
TORTURE  
FROM  
THE SAT-  
SUMA...



CHIYO-  
MATSU IS  
HEAVIER  
THAN A  
BAG OF  
RICE...

THAT'S  
TRUE...



THAT'S  
NOT IT!

THAT'S  
RIGHT, WE  
SHOULD  
GET BACK  
AND START  
PACKING...

IT'LL BE  
FINE IF  
WE JUST  
MOVE OUT  
AS SOON  
AS POS-  
SIBLE!



EVEN MY  
SISTER  
CHIYO...  
YOUR  
FAMILIES...

WE DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
SATSUMA  
WILL DO  
TO THEM.

HE'LL TELL  
THEM OUR  
NAMES TOO.  
HE MIGHT TELL  
THEM WHAT  
VILLAGES WE  
CAME FROM  
AS WELL. IF  
THAT HAPPENS  
IT WON'T JUST  
BE US IN  
TROUBLE.



NO  
WAY...

NO...



WELL  
THEN,  
WE CAN'T  
JUST  
LEAVE  
CHIYO-  
MATSU  
ALONE  
AFTER  
ALL!



BUT  
STILL...  
IF IT'S  
SATSUMA  
THEY JUST  
MIGHT  
DO IT.

TO LAY  
A HAND  
ON OUR  
FAMILIES  
WOULD BE  
COWARD-  
LY.



BUT  
IT'S  
THE  
ONLY  
WAY.

IT  
WON'T  
BE  
EASY  
FOR  
US...



HAA?



WE  
WILL CUT  
CHIYO-  
MATSU  
DOWN.





WITH  
OUR OWN  
HANDS...

WE  
WILL KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU.



IT  
MIGHT  
JUST  
WORK

IF IT'S  
JUST  
KILLING  
CHIYO-  
MATSU,  
THEN  
RUNNING  
AWAY...



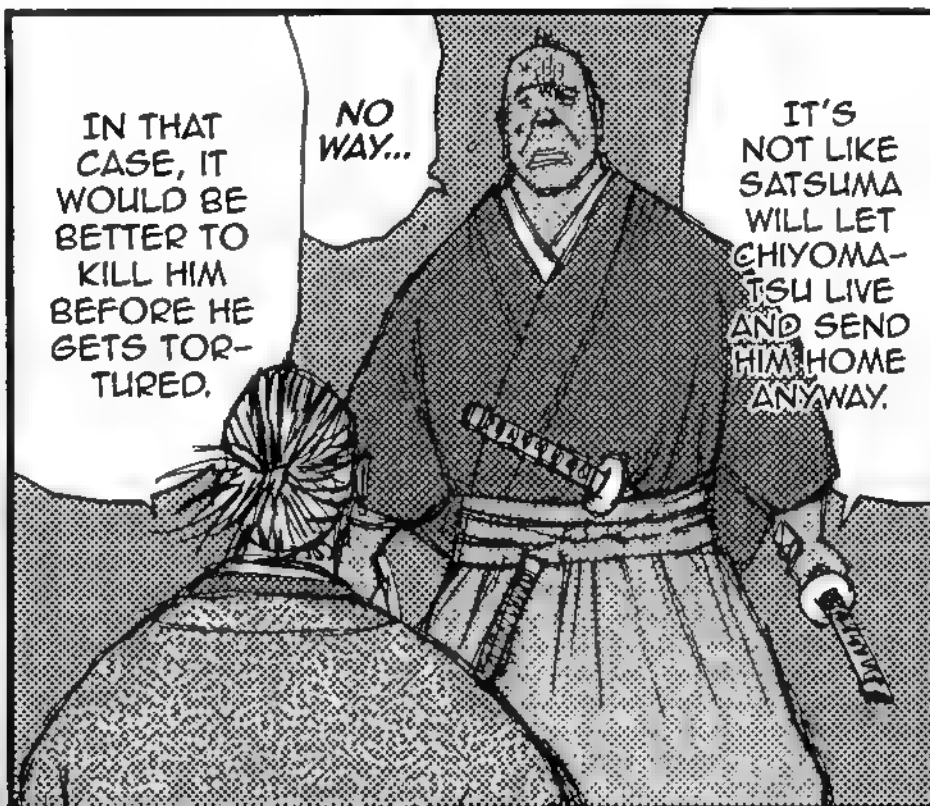
IT'S  
THE ONLY  
WAY!

WHAT...  
YOU...  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING  
USHI...



THERE'S  
NO WAY  
I WOULD  
KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU!

STOP  
SPOUT-  
ING  
CRAP!



IN THAT  
CASE, IT  
WOULD BE  
BETTER TO  
KILL HIM  
BEFORE HE  
GETS TOR-  
TURED.

NO  
WAY...

IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
SATSUMA  
WILL LET  
CHIYOMA-  
TSU LIVE  
AND SEND  
HIM HOME  
ANYWAY.



IF  
CHIYOMATSU  
ENTERS  
THEIR BASE,  
THEN IT'LL  
BE TOO  
LATE FOR  
US TO DO  
ANYTHING!

THEN I  
WILL KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU!


WE  
DON'T HAVE  
THE TIME  
TO ARGUE  
ABOUT  
THIS!



SFX:  
BANG

GAH!






IF WE  
DON'T,  
THEN WE  
DON'T  
KNOW WHAT  
COULD  
HAPPEN  
TO YOUR  
MOTHER!

I'M  
SAYING IT  
BECAUSE  
WE HAVE  
NO OTHER  
OPTIONS!



STOP SAYING  
WE SHOULD  
KILL OUR  
FRIENDS AS  
IF IT'S EASY  
TO DO!



I WOULDN'T  
HAVE HESI-  
TATED TO  
KILL YOU  
IF IT WAS.

USHI-  
GOROU...  
IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN  
FINE IF  
YOU WERE  
CAUGHT.




NN...  
GH!

IS THAT  
ALRIGHT  
WITH  
YOU!!!?



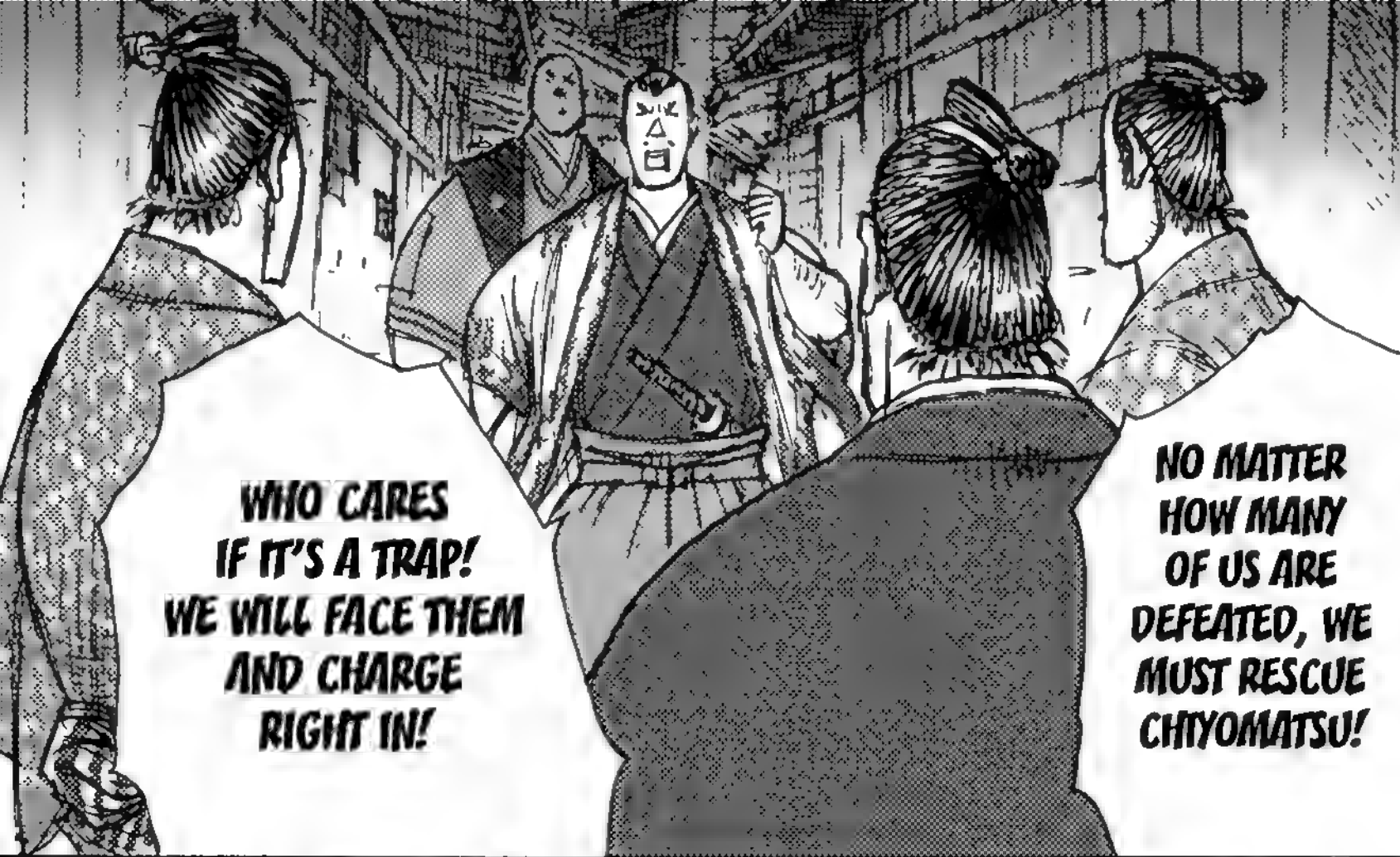
STAND BY  
AND WATCH  
HIM DIE.

I WON'T



IT WOULD  
BE BETTER  
FOR ME TO  
DIE BEFORE  
I GO TOR-  
TURED.

IF THAT  
HAPPENS  
THEN I'LL  
COUNT  
ON YOU,  
ICHIZOU.



**WHO CARES  
IF IT'S A TRAP!  
WE WILL FACE THEM  
AND CHARGE  
RIGHT IN!**

**NO MATTER  
HOW MANY  
OF US ARE  
DEFEATED, WE  
MUST RESCUE  
CHIYOMATSU!**



IF YOU  
WANT TO DIE,  
GO DO IT  
YOURSELF.

WE WOULD  
JUST DIE  
IN VAIN.

ICHIZOU,  
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?



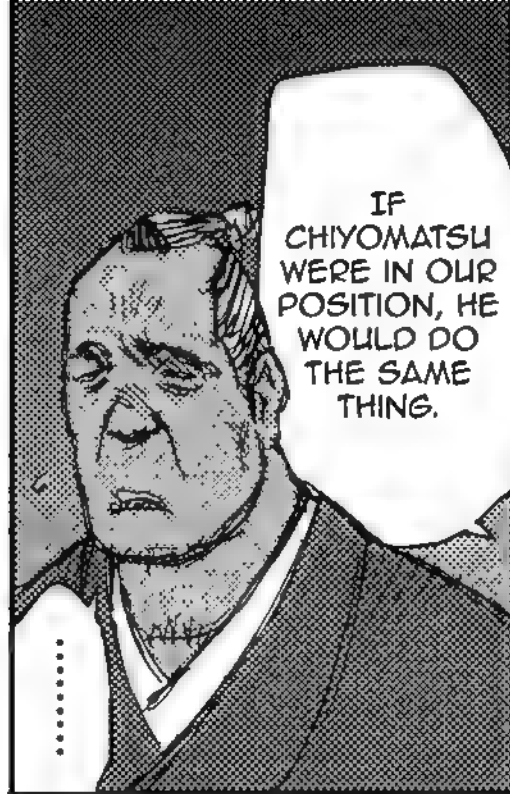
IT  
DOESN'T  
MAKE  
SENSE TO  
SACRIFICE  
SO MANY  
FOR CHIYO-  
MATSU'S  
SAKE.

ON TOP  
OF THAT,  
WE ONLY  
HAVE TWO  
SWORDS.

IF WE  
CAN'T  
DO A  
SURPRISE  
ATTACK,  
OUR  
CHANCES  
ARE TOO  
LOW.

WHA-





IF  
CHIYOMATSU  
WERE IN OUR  
POSITION, HE  
WOULD DO  
THE SAME  
THING.



BUT I  
HAVE TO  
BACK  
USHI-  
GOROU'S  
PLAN.

YEAH,  
ME TOO.  
THERE'S  
NO WAY WE  
CAN RISK  
THEM IDENTIFYING US.



WASA-  
BUROU,  
I FEEL BAD  
FOR YOU,  
KNOWING  
YOU'RE THE  
CLOSEST  
ONE TO CHI-  
YOMATSU.



WHY  
SHOULD  
I?

AHH?



**GIVE  
ME THAT  
KATANA!**

**HEY,  
USHI-  
GOROU!**



**TCH!**



**GIVE  
ME THAT  
KATANA!**

WH-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING!?

**I'LL GO  
BY MYSELF!**

**I'LL RESCUE  
CHIYOMATSU  
ON MY OWN!**



**CUT IT  
OUT, YOU  
IDIOT!**

**STOP  
IT, YOU  
TWO!**

**JUST  
SHUT UP  
AND GIVE ME  
THE KATANA,  
YOU FUCKING  
MIDGET!**



**ARE YOU  
REALLY  
GOING TO  
KILL CHIYO-  
MATSU!?**

**YOU  
GUYS!**



**I'M  
GOING TO  
RESCUE  
CHIYO-  
MATSU!**

**CALM  
DOWN!**


**SHIT,  
LET ME  
GO!**



**HE'S A  
FRIEND THAT  
FOUGHT  
AGAINST THE  
SATSUMA  
WITH US!**

**CHIYOMATSU  
IS A ONE  
STRIKE, ONE  
KILL SQUAD  
WARRIOR LIKE  
THE REST  
OF US!**





**HOW CAN  
YOU BE SO  
SCARED AND  
STILL CALL  
YOURSELVES  
SAMURAI!?**

**HOW CAN  
YOU KILL OUR  
FRIEND AND  
RUN AWAY  
WHEN IT'S  
CONVENIENT  
FOR YOU!?**



**CALM  
DOWN,  
ICHIZOU!**



**THAT'S  
ENOUGH!**



**I  
CAN'T LET  
EVERYONE  
AND THEIR  
FAMILIES  
BE IN  
DANGER.**

**EVEN IF  
IT'S FOR  
CHIYO-  
MATSU...**



**IT'S AS  
EVERY-  
ONE  
SAID.**




**WASA-  
BUROU.**



USHI-  
GOROU'S  
PLAN IS  
THE RIGHT  
CHOICE...

I ALSO  
THINK  
THAT...



IF IT'S  
COME TO  
THIS... WE  
HAVE TO  
GIVE UP...

THERE'S  
NO  
OTHER  
CHOICE  
...



WEREN'T YOU  
GOING TO  
CARRY SHIT  
TOGETHER  
WITH CHIYO-  
MATSU!?

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING,  
WASA-  
BUROU!?



THEN  
PLEASE...

IF  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
CUT DOWN  
CHIYO-  
MATSU,



USHI-  
GOROU.



SFX:  
Sniff



HE  
DOESN'T  
SUFFER.

PLEASE...  
PLEASE  
DO IT SO  
THAT...



**SHIT!**

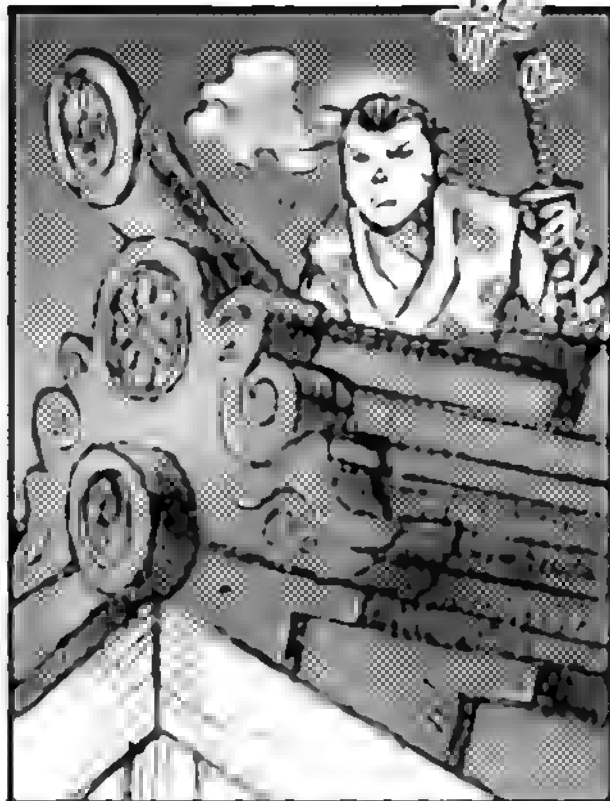
# CHAPTER 15 FEINT







SFX  
Tap

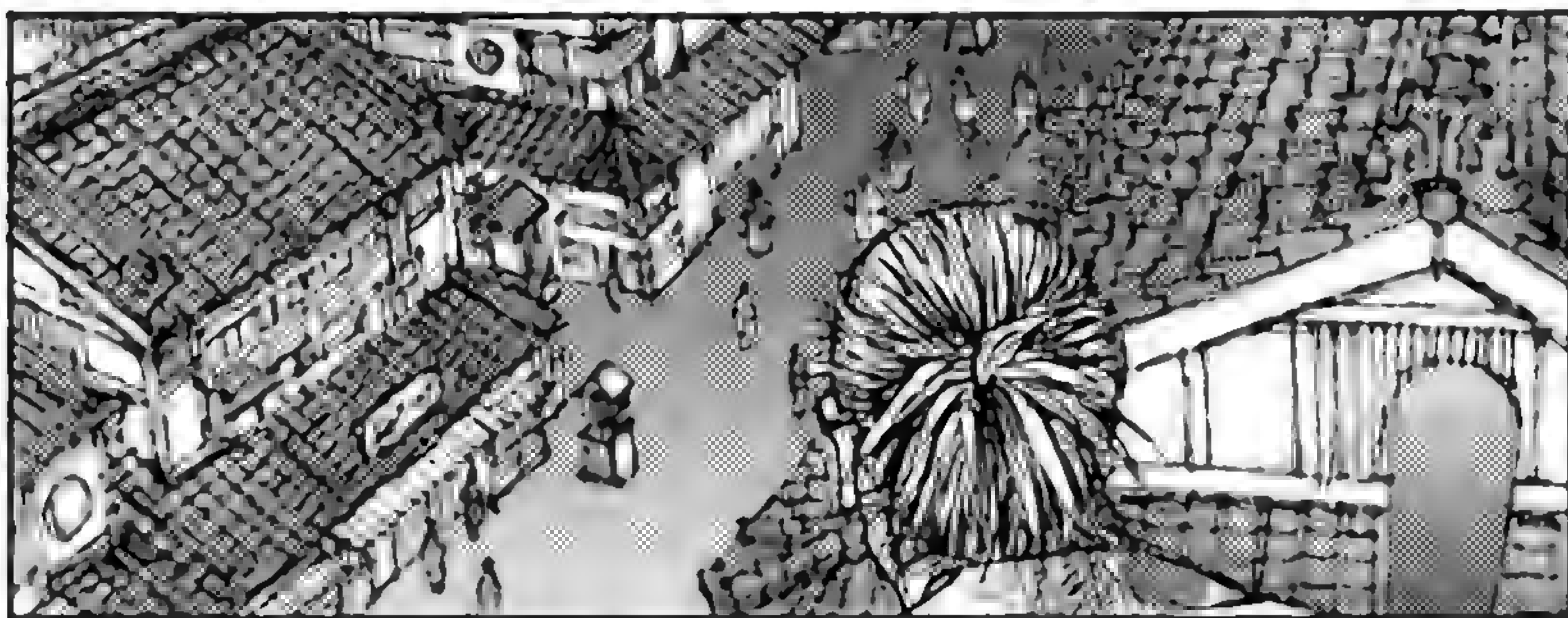


IT'S THE  
SATSUMA  
DOMAIN!



HEY,  
THAT'S  
THEM!

SFX  
Running



WE'LL  
START OUR  
PLAN WHEN  
THEY GET  
TO THE  
3-WAY  
JUNCTION.

ALRIGHT  
GUYS







WE'LL  
BE ABLE  
TO GET IN  
CLOSE, SINCE  
THERE'S A  
CROWD OF  
PEOPLE  
BLOCKING  
THEIR VIEW.

THERE  
ARE LOTS  
OF SMALL  
ALLEYWAYS  
THERE, AND  
IT'LL BE  
EASY TO  
ESCAPE  
WHEN WE  
NEED TO.



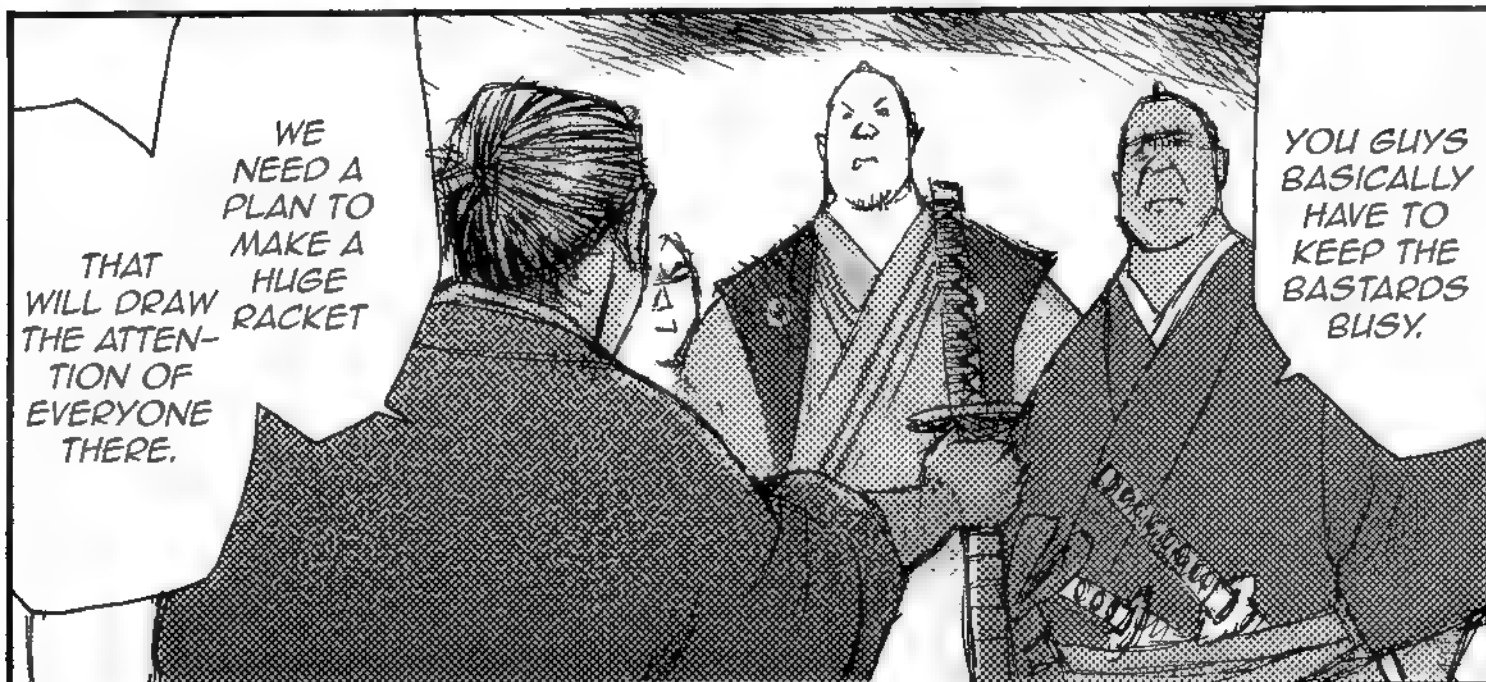
AND KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU.

I'LL  
RUSH IN  
TO THE  
OPENING



THERE'LL  
BE AN  
OPENING  
ON THE  
REMAIN-  
ING SIDE.

YOU  
GUYS  
ATTACK  
THREE  
OF THE  
FOUR  
SIDES.



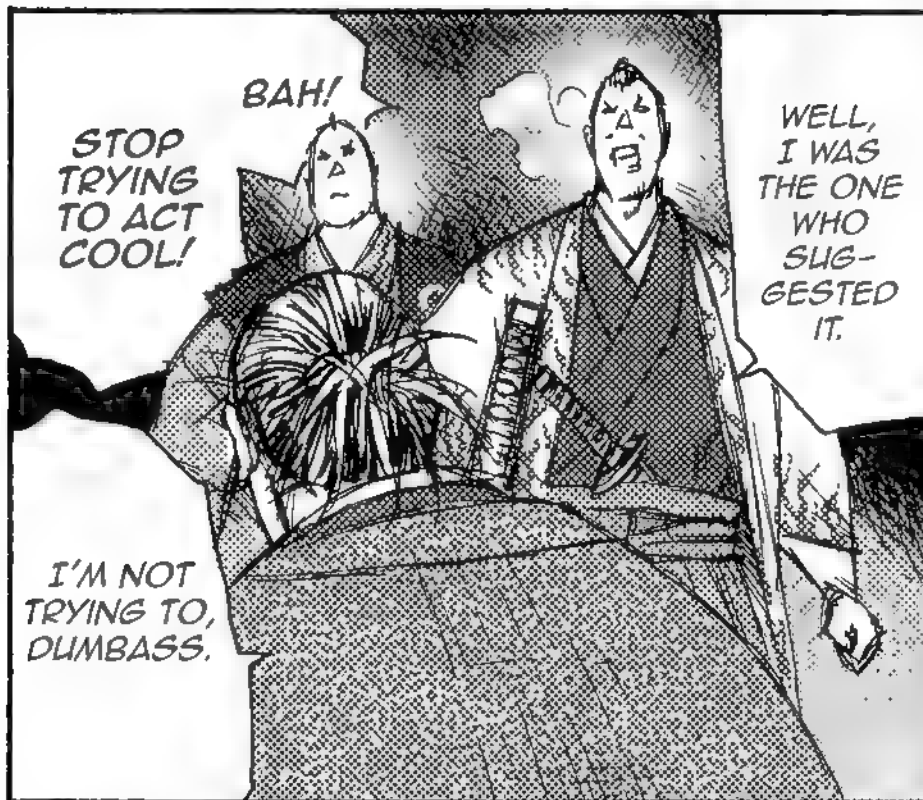
WE  
NEED A  
PLAN TO  
MAKE A  
HUGE  
RACKET  
THAT  
WILL DRAW  
THE ATTEN-  
TION OF  
EVERYONE  
THERE.

YOU GUYS  
BASICALLY  
HAVE TO  
KEEP THE  
BASTARDS  
BUSY.



THIS WILL  
BE ALL FOR  
NOTHING IF  
MORE PEOPLE  
GET CAPTURED,  
AND WE HAVE  
TO KILL THEM  
TOO.

ONCE I KILL  
CHIYOMATSU,  
WE ALL HAVE  
TO RUN AS  
FAST AS  
WE CAN.



BAH!

STOP  
TRYING  
TO ACT  
COOL!

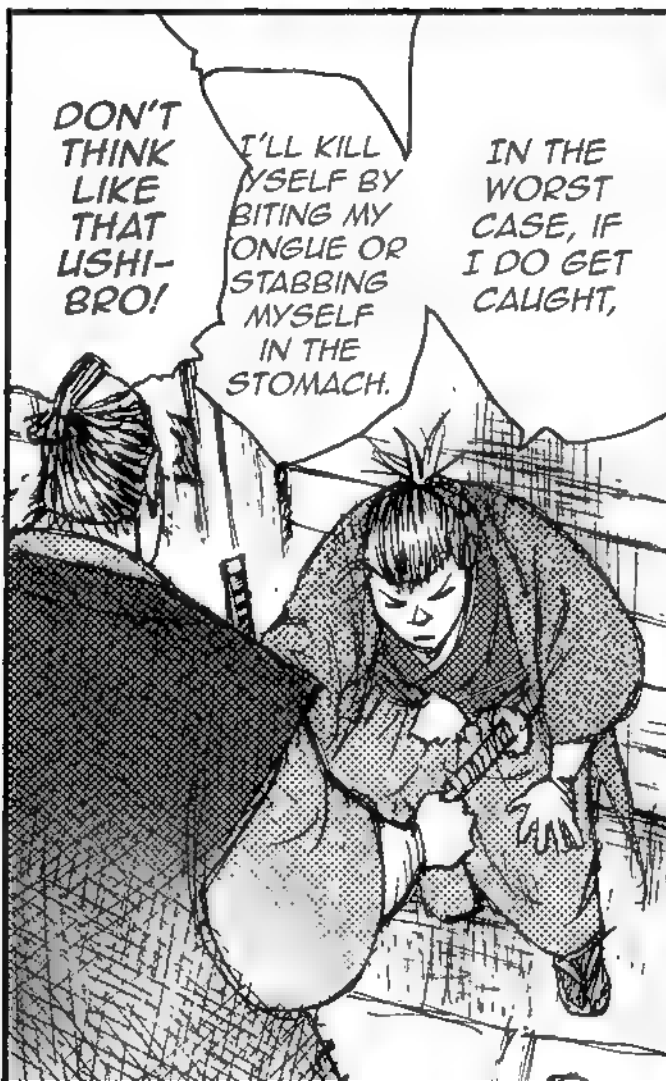
I'M NOT  
TRYING TO,  
DUMBASS.

WELL,  
I WAS  
THE ONE  
WHO SUG-  
GESTED  
IT.



USHI-  
GOROU!

THE ONE  
WITH THE  
MOST  
DANGER-  
OUS JOB  
IS YOU,



DON'T  
THINK  
LIKE  
THAT  
USHI-  
BRO!

I'LL KILL  
MYSELF BY  
BITING MY  
TONGUE OR  
STABBING  
MYSELF  
IN THE  
STOMACH.

IN THE  
WORST  
CASE, IF  
I DO GET  
CAUGHT,



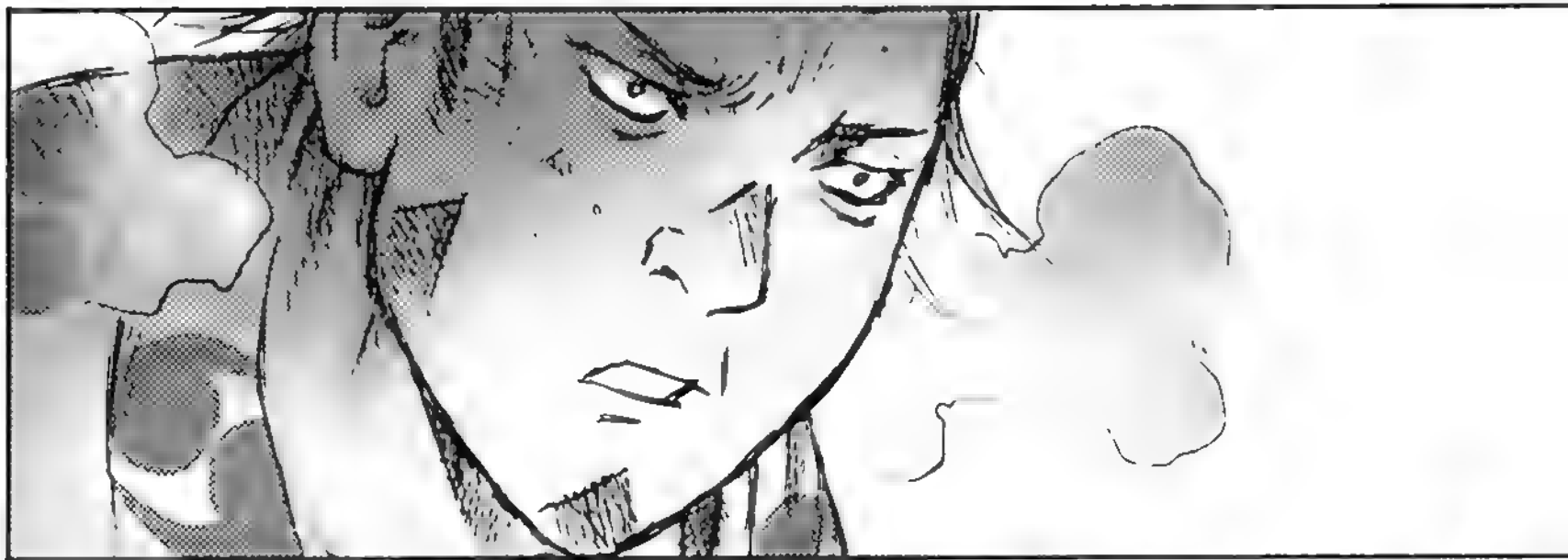
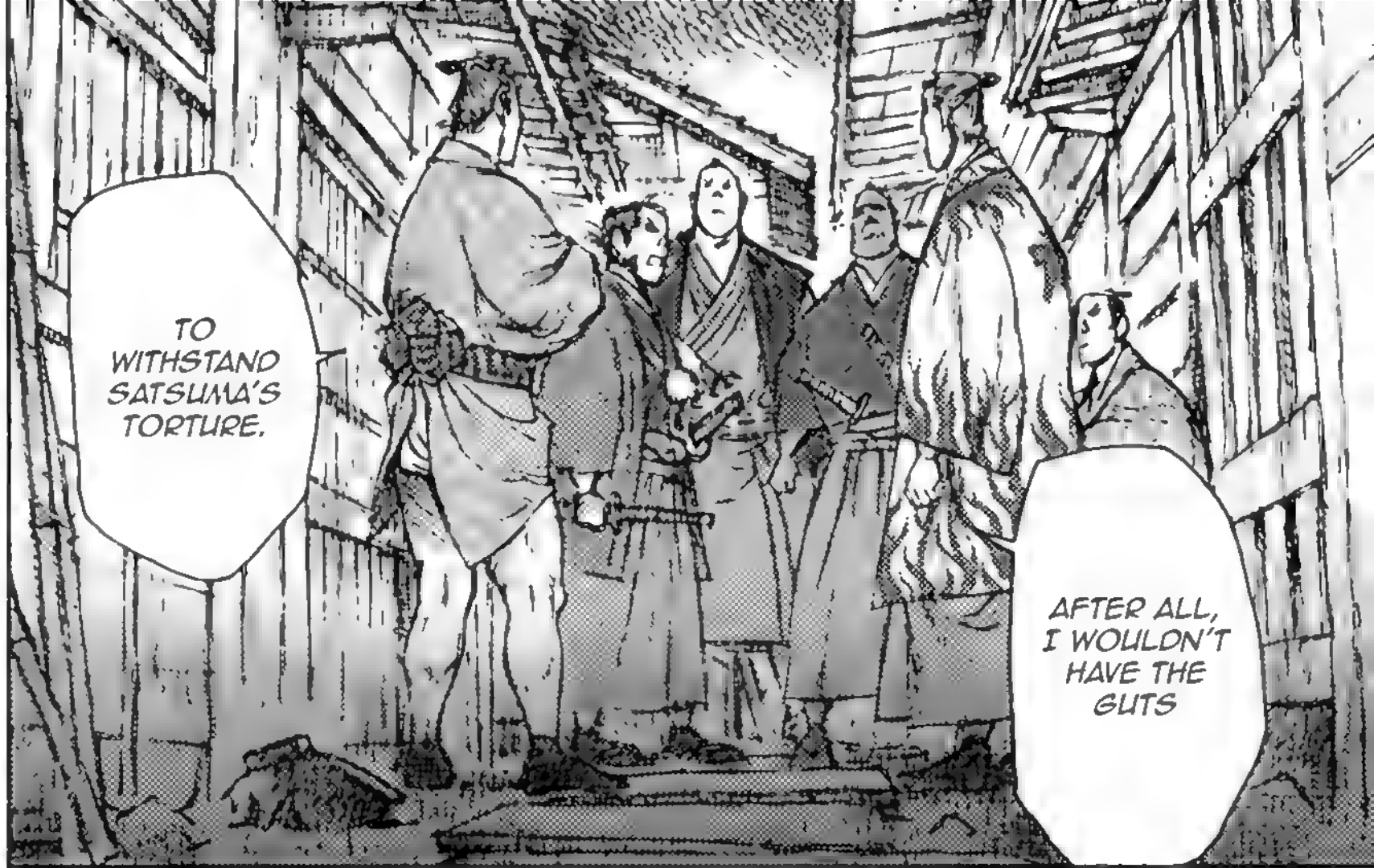
USHI-  
GOROU  
PROBABLY  
IS THE  
BEST AT  
RUNNING  
AWAY UN-  
ARMED.

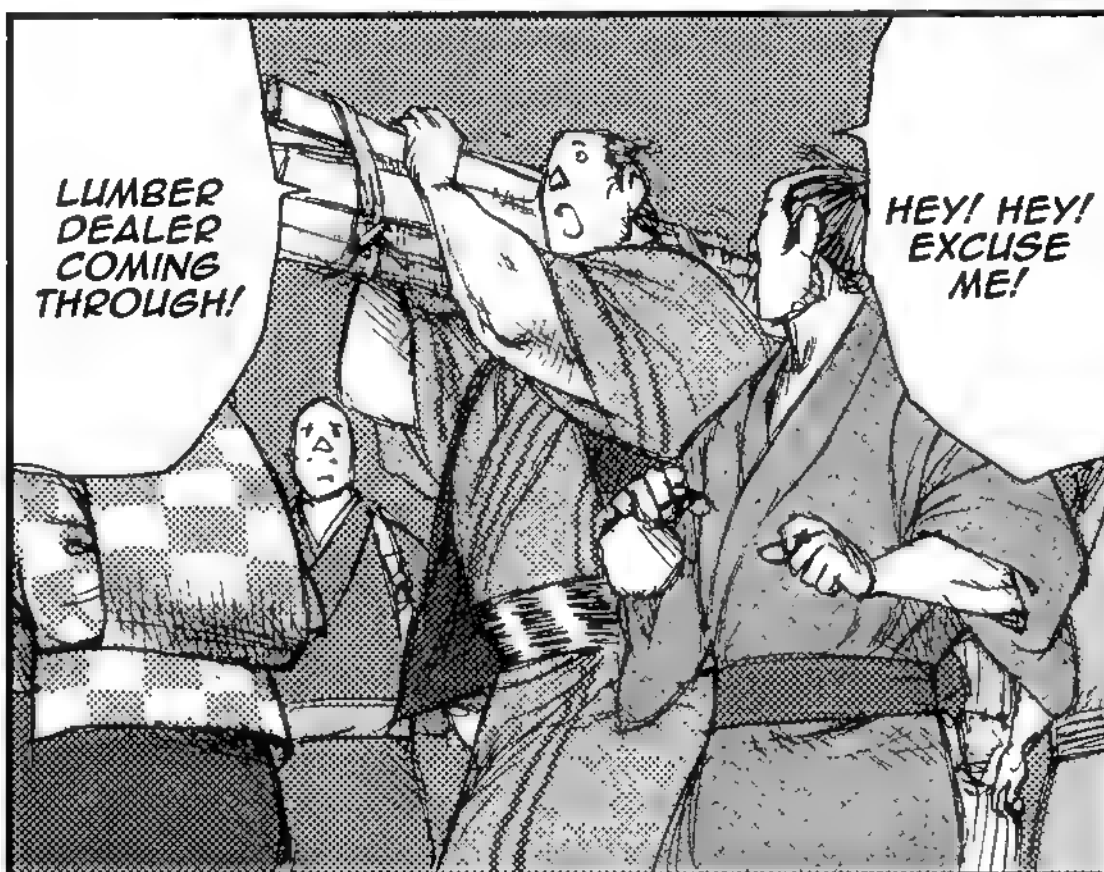
WELL,  
THAT'S  
TRUE...



I'M A  
MIDGET,  
SO I  
CAN GET  
AROUND  
MORE  
EASILY,  
AND I  
WON'T  
LOSE TO  
ANYONE  
IN TERMS  
OF  
SPEED.











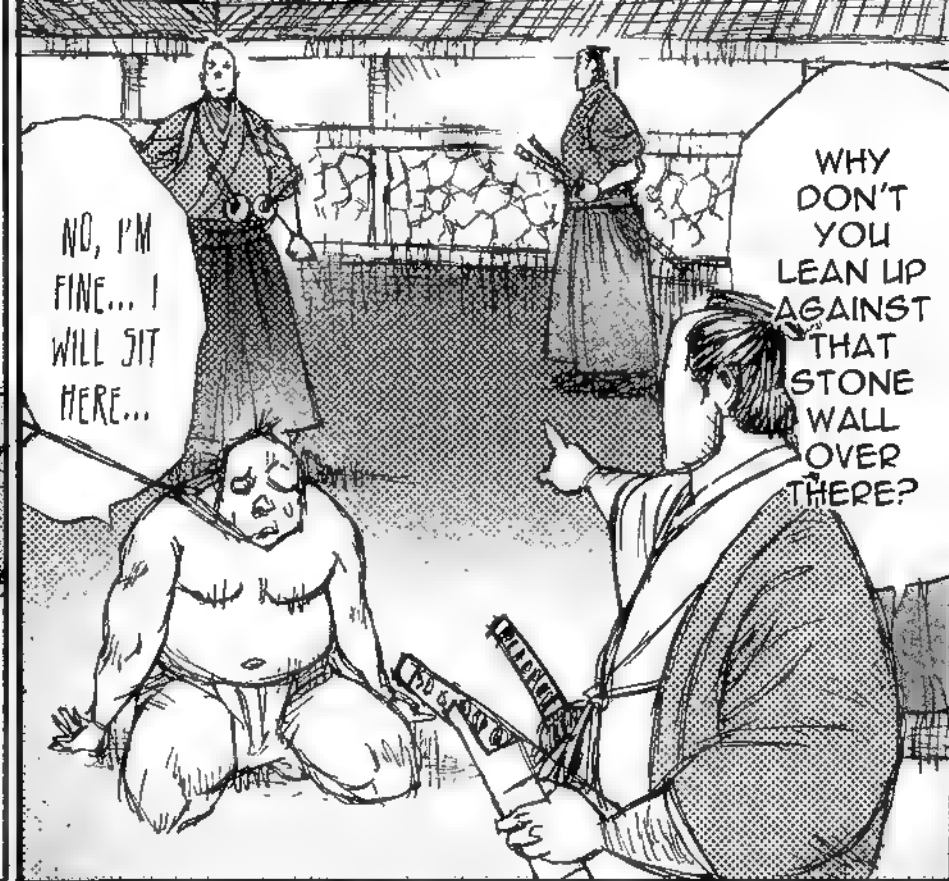
SFX:  
Labored  
breathing





Y-YES...

YOU'LL  
CHOKE IF  
YOU DON'T  
DRINK  
SLOWLY.



NO, I'M  
FINE... I  
WILL SIT  
HERE...

WHY  
DON'T  
YOU  
LEAN UP  
AGAINST  
THAT  
STONE  
WALL  
OVER  
THERE?



IF IT'S  
THESE  
PEOPLE,  
THEY MAY  
ACTUALLY  
LET ME  
GO...

I GUESS  
THE  
SATSUMA  
ISN'T FULL  
OF JUST  
HEARTLESS  
PEOPLE...



JUST  
TO MAKE  
SURE I'M  
OK...

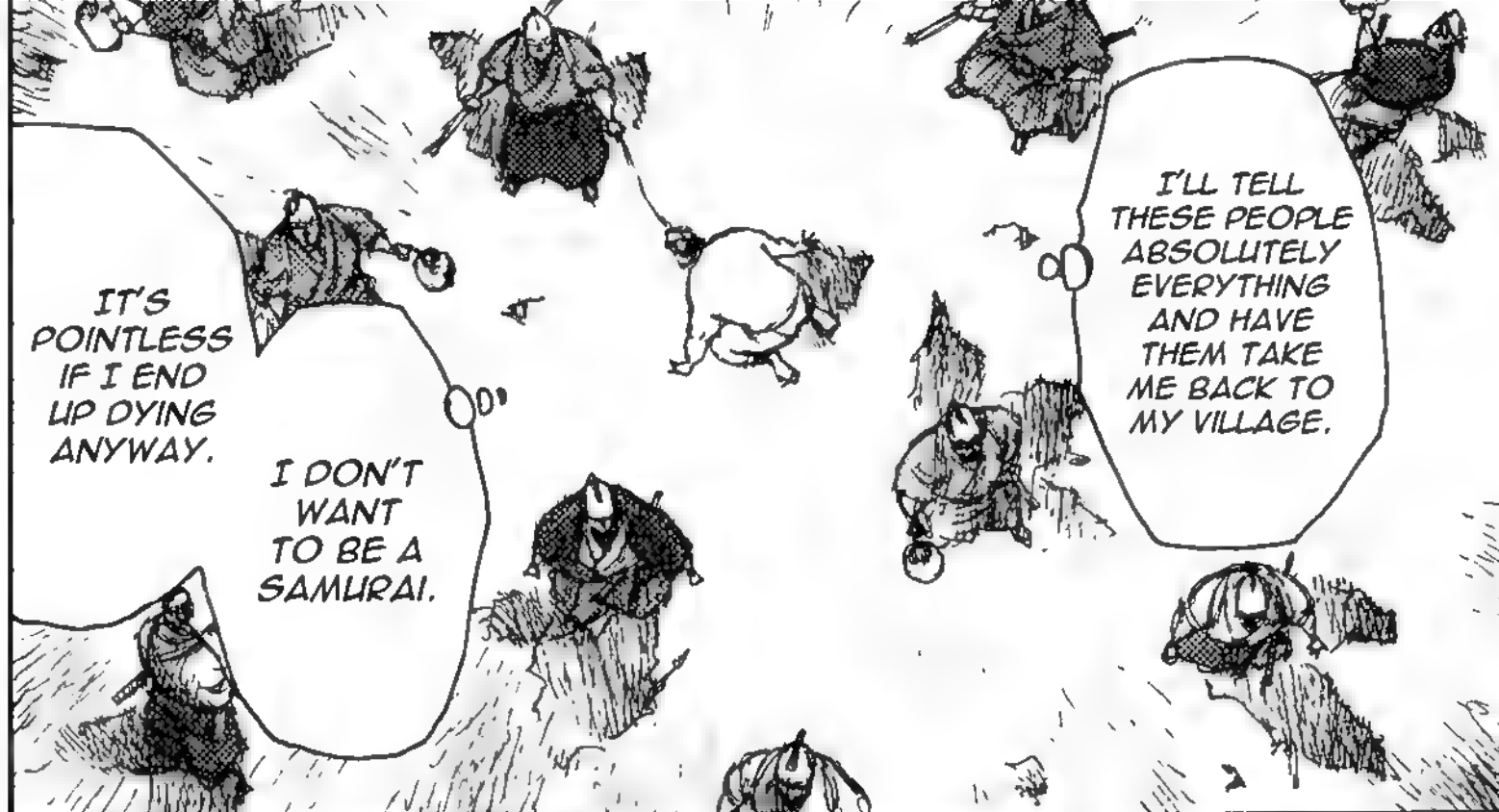
THIS  
SAMU-  
RAI IS  
PUTTING  
IN A  
LOT OF  
EFFORT...



IT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN A  
LOT EASIER  
JUST TO  
STAY AS A  
PEASANT.

IF I HAVE TO  
GO THROUGH  
THIS, THEN I  
DON'T WANT  
TO BECOME  
A SAMURAI.





IT'S  
POINTLESS  
IF I END  
UP DYING  
ANYWAY.

I DON'T  
WANT  
TO BE A  
SAMURAI.

I'LL TELL  
THESE PEOPLE  
ABSOLUTELY  
EVERYTHING  
AND HAVE  
THEM TAKE  
ME BACK TO  
MY VILLAGE.

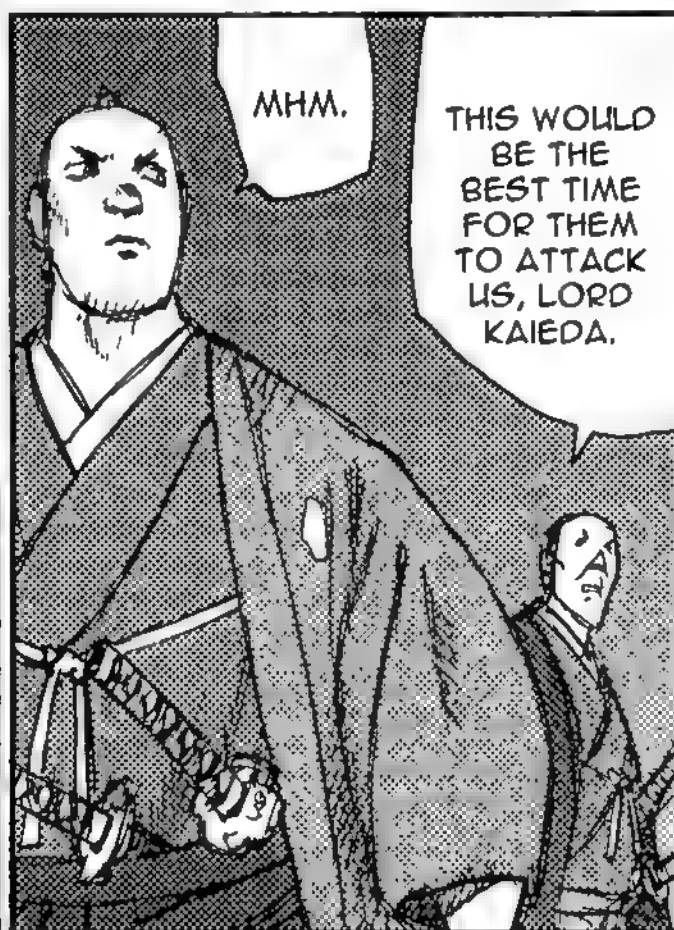


IF I  
WAS  
THEM, I  
WOULD  
HAVE  
ABAN-  
DONED  
ME.

NO  
WAY...  
THEY  
DEFINI-  
TELY  
WON'T  
COME.

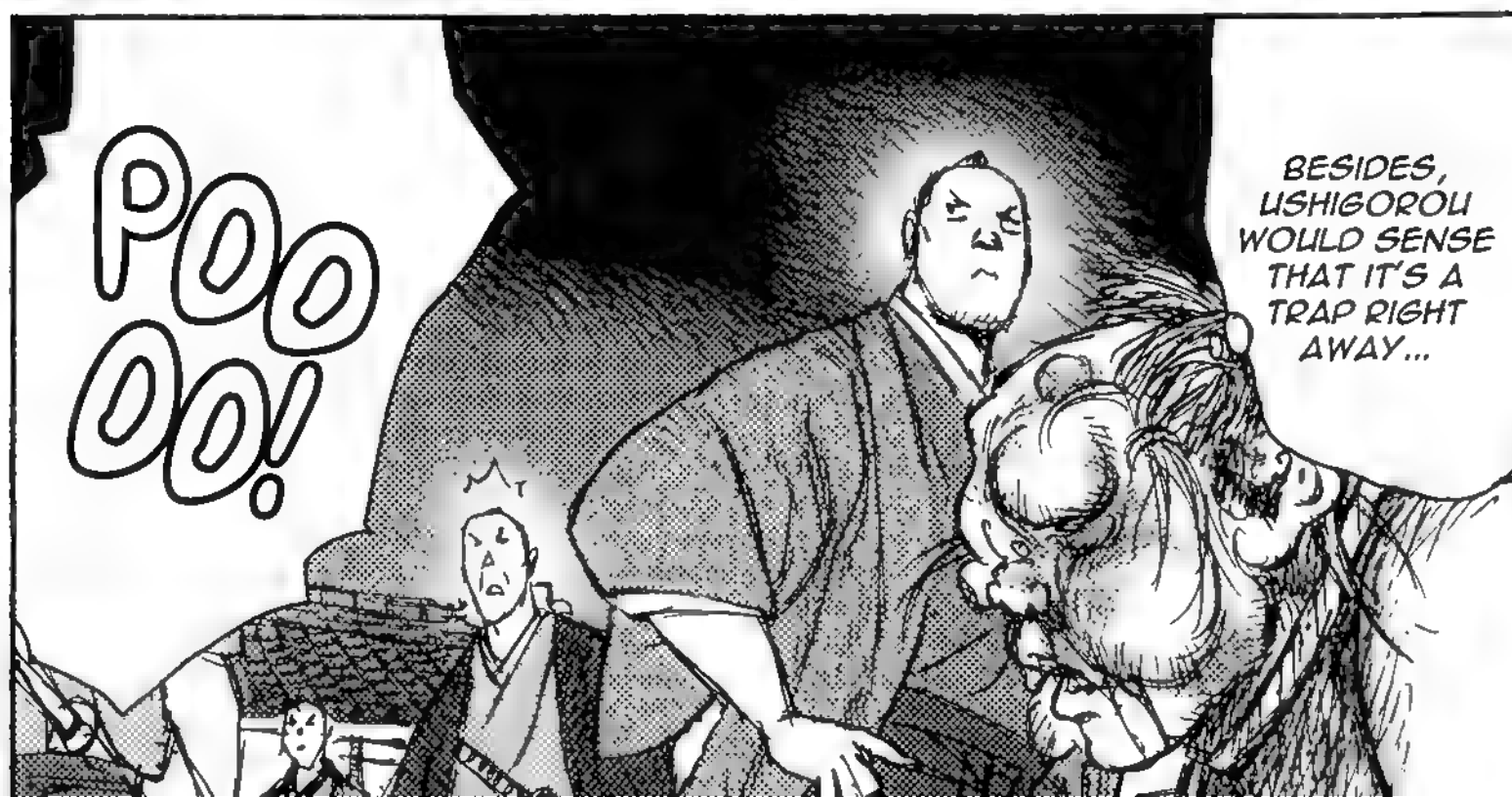


WE  
HAVE SET  
OURSELVES  
UP TO LOOK  
AS VULNER-  
ABLE AS  
POSSIBLE.  
THEY'LL  
DEFINITELY  
COME.



MHM.

THIS WOULD  
BE THE  
BEST TIME  
FOR THEM  
TO ATTACK  
US, LORD  
KAIEDA.



POOO!

BESIDES,  
USHIGOROU  
WOULD SENSE  
THAT IT'S A  
TRAP RIGHT  
AWAY...



OVER  
HERE  
TOO.

**POO  
OO!**



IT'S  
POO OOOO!

**POO OOOO!**

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON?



TH-  
THEY'RE  
MOCKING  
US.

**THE SATSUMA ARE POO OOOO!**

SFX:  
giggle  
giggle,  
ha ha  
ha



SFX:  
Bonk!

**Bu!**



**I'LL BE  
YOUR  
OPPO-  
NENT!**

IF YOU HAVE  
A PROBLEM  
WITH US WHY  
DON'T YOU  
COME OUT  
AND SHOW  
YOUR-  
SELVES!?

SFX:  
Whistling

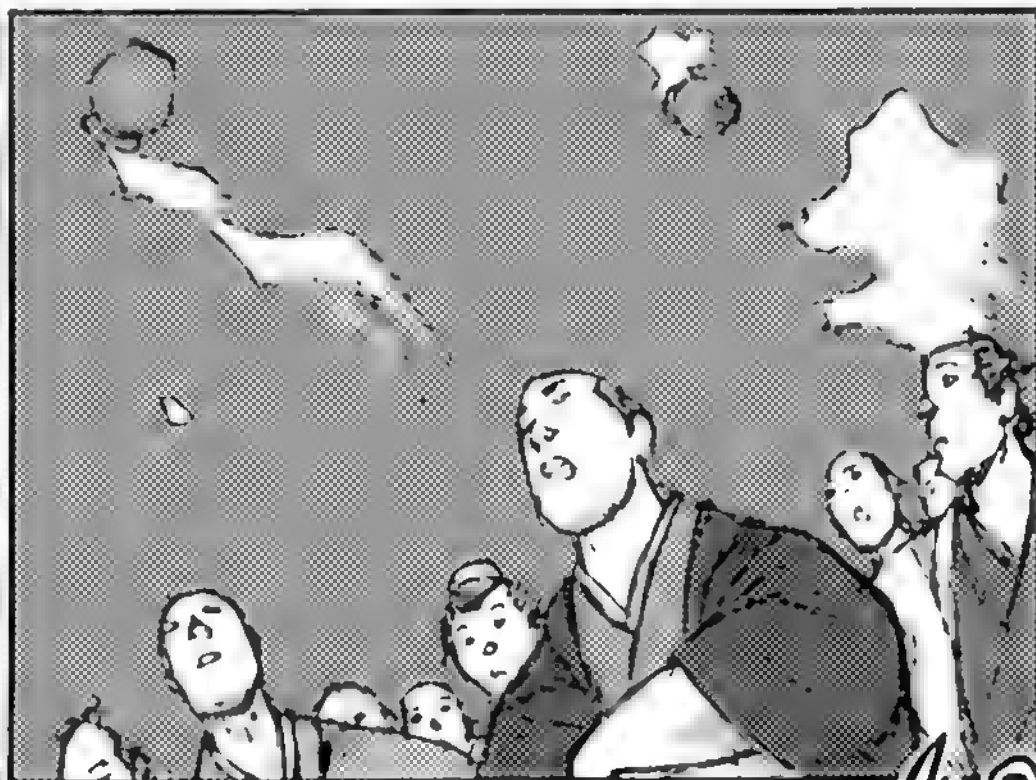




SFX:  
Shatter



SFX:  
Smash



SFX:  
Shatter







SFX:  
Whoosh,  
whoosh!  
Swing!

IS THAT  
ALL YOU  
GOT,  
FATTY?

P00!

SO  
ANNOY-  
ING!

YOU'RE  
P00!

P0000!

NN!

P0000!



**P00!**

**DIE!**



**P00!**

SFX:  
Whoosh,  
shing



SFX:  
Too!



**WHAT  
ON...**



**P00  
00!**

**WHAT...**

**P00!**





**HRRN!**

SFX:  
Clang!

**IT'S  
POO!**



SFX:  
Grinding  
whack!

**UWH!**

**IT  
IS...  
POO!**



**THIS  
IS...**

**NNN...  
TH-**



SFX:  
Grip!

**EHP?**

**POO!**



**I SEE...  
SUCH  
STRENGTH.**

**THIS  
WILL BE  
FUN.**

SFX:  
Haa  
haa



IT'S  
PRETTY  
BRAVE OF  
YOU TO  
GO UP  
AGAINST  
THE SAT-  
SUMA.

HEY,  
BRO!

IF  
YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
FIGHT US  
OR RUN  
AWAY!?



CAN'T  
YOU  
PEOPLE  
DECIDE...

SFX:  
Stopp!  
Poooo!



YEAH,  
LET ME  
JOIN IN  
TOO.

EH?

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHO YOU  
ARE, BUT  
I'LL HELP  
YOU.



EVERY-  
THING IS  
POOOO!

POOOO!

IT'S  
POO  
OO!



DON'T BE  
FOOLED,  
IT'S ONLY  
THE  
TOWNS-  
FOLK  
MOCKING  
US.

THERE'S  
MORE  
OF  
THEM!



POO  
OO!



SFX:  
Poooo!  
x4



THEY CAN  
COVER  
FOR THEIR  
SMALL  
NUMBERS  
WITH THIS.

SO,  
THEY'RE  
USING  
SMOKE-  
SCREENS  
AND LOUD  
NOISES TO  
TRY AND  
DISTURB  
US.



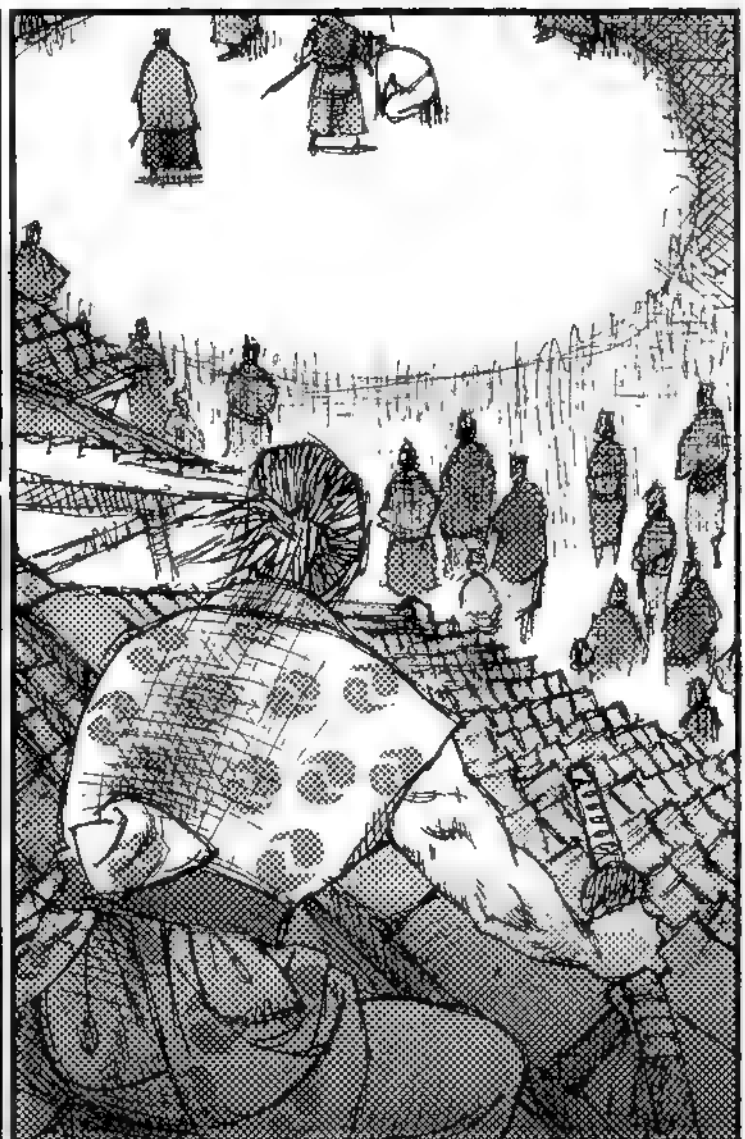
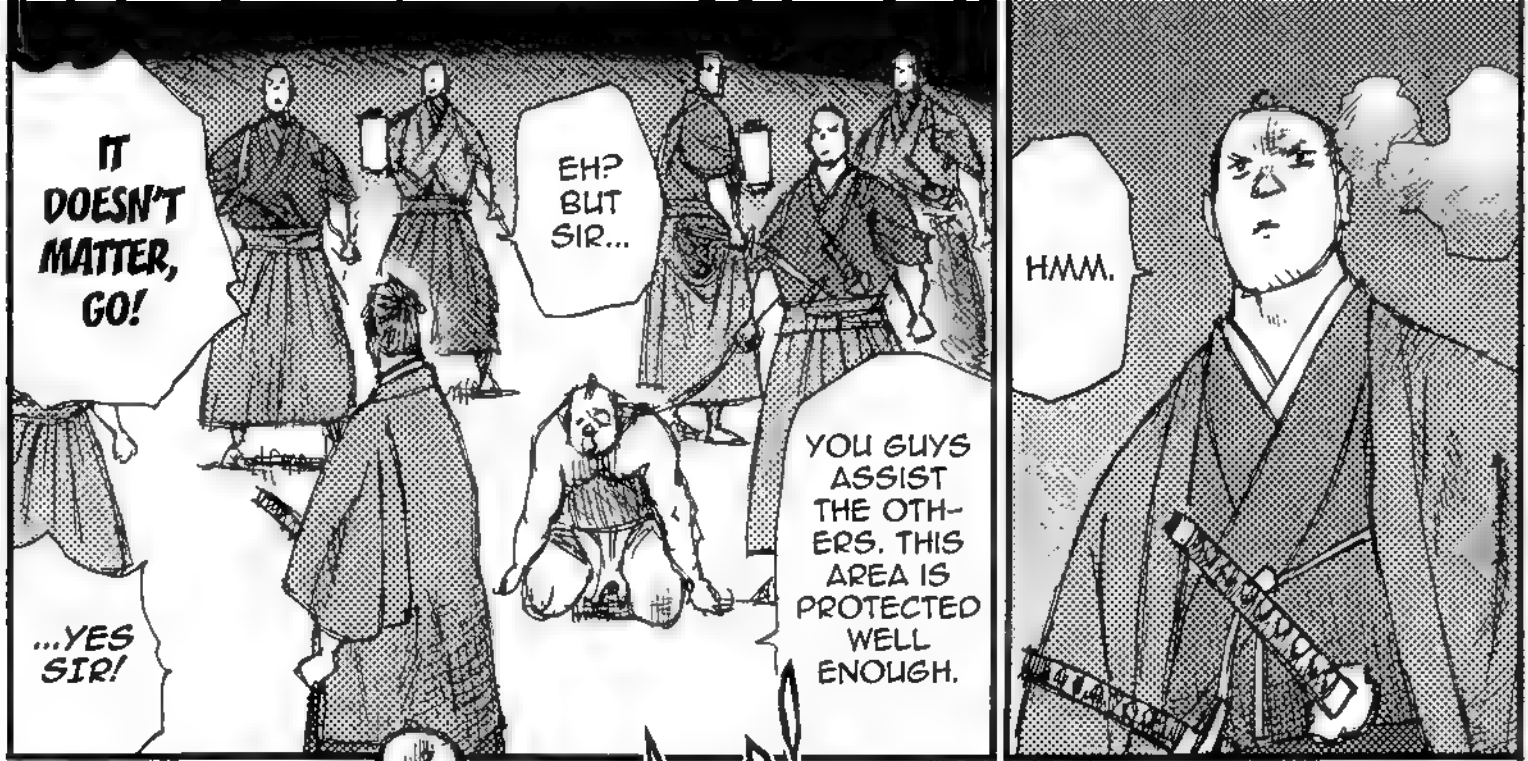
WHY  
WOULD  
THEY...

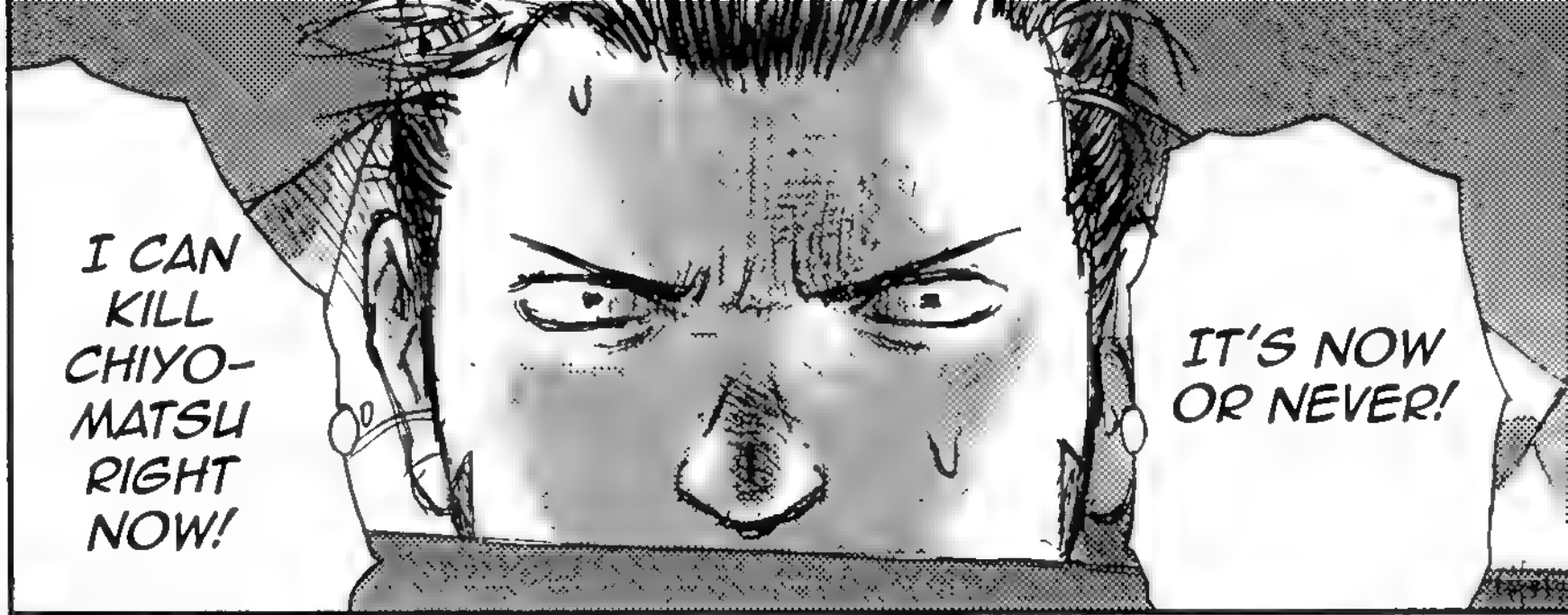
IMPOS-  
SIBLE...



CHIYO-  
MATSU,

YOUR  
FRIENDS  
HAVE COME  
EXACTLY  
LIKE WE  
THOUGHT.





I CAN  
KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU  
RIGHT  
NOW!

IT'S NOW  
OR NEVER!



I HAVE  
TO GO!

SFX:  
tap



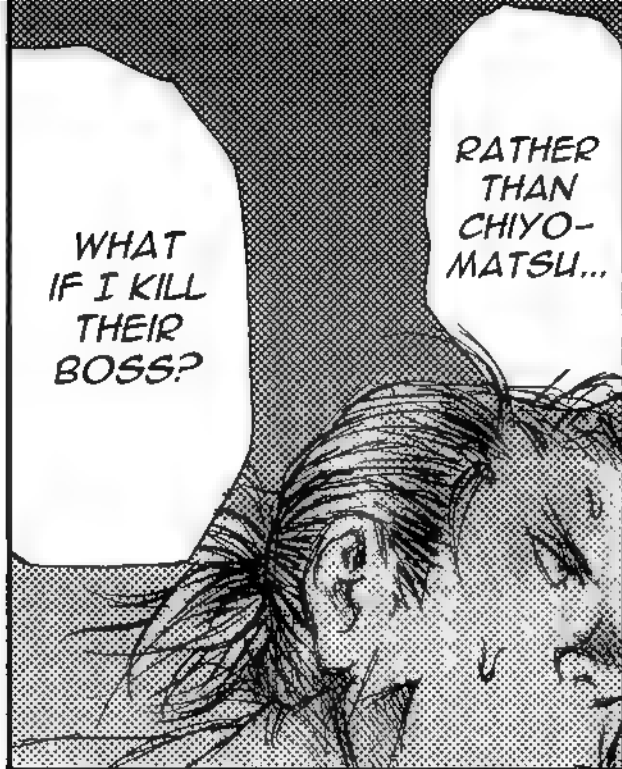
IS  
AROUND  
THE  
BOSS.

NO  
ONE

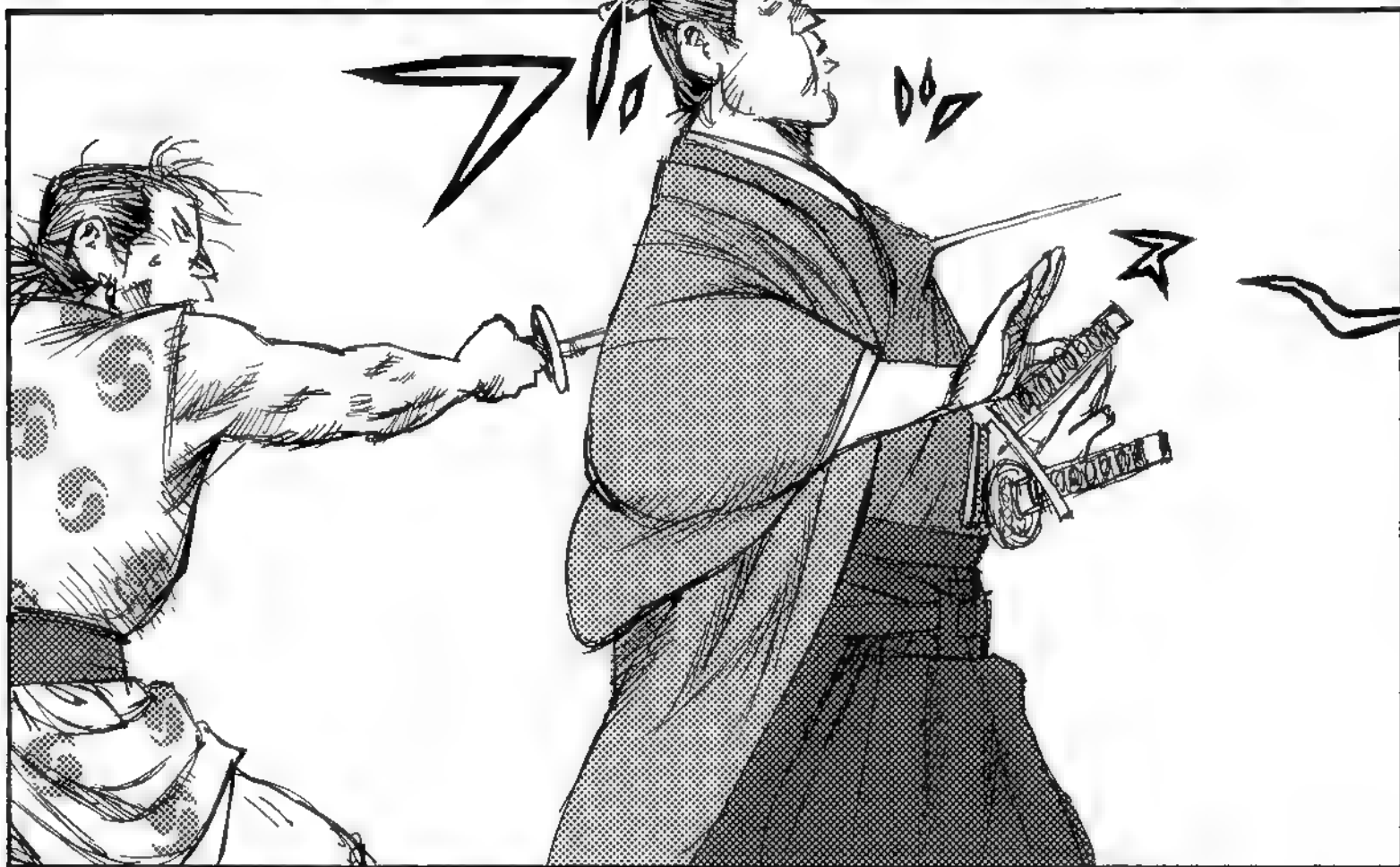


...HOLD  
ON.





RATHER  
THAN  
CHIYO-  
MATSU...





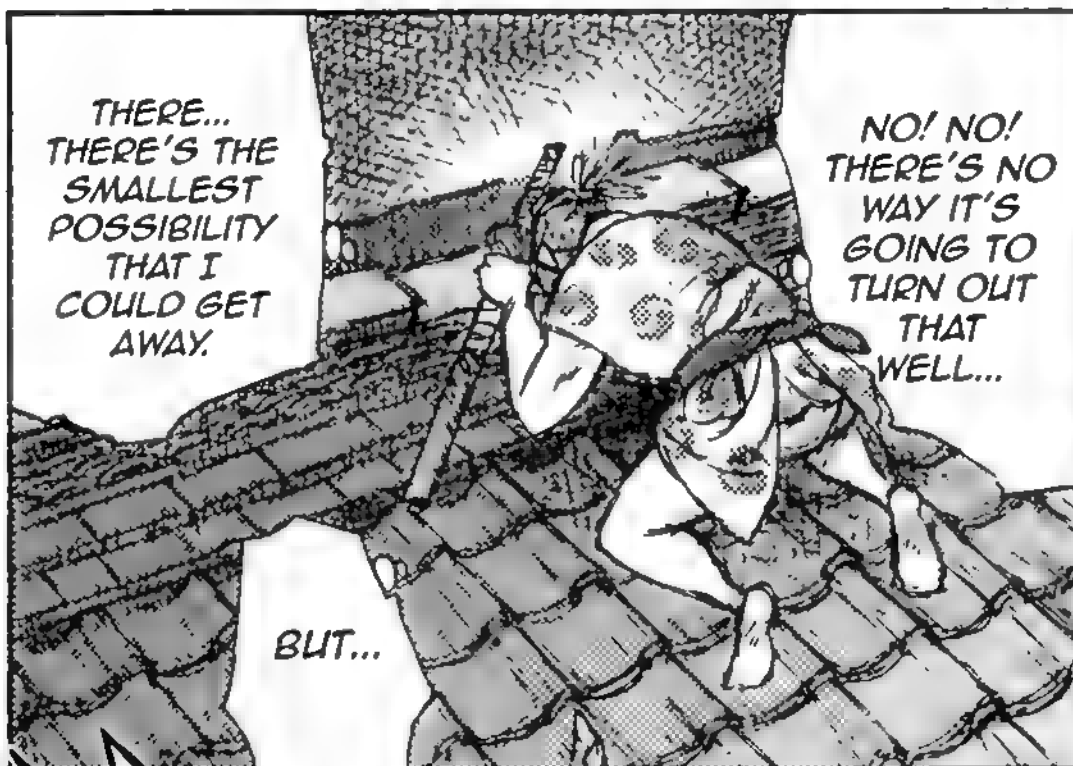
USHI-GOROU!

NOW CHIYO-MATSU, RUN!



WAAAA, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

OH NO, SOMEONE HAS KILLED OUR BOSS!



THERE... THERE'S THE SMALLEST POSSIBILITY THAT I COULD GET AWAY.

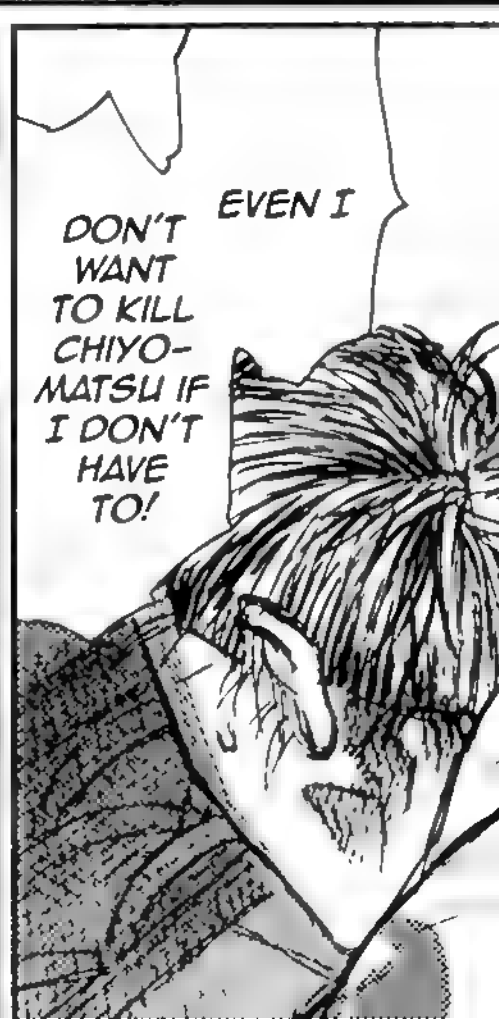
NO! NO! THERE'S NO WAY IT'S GOING TO TURN OUT THAT WELL...

BUT...



SFX: Clang

WAH!



EVEN I DON'T WANT TO KILL CHIYO-MATSU IF I DON'T HAVE TO!



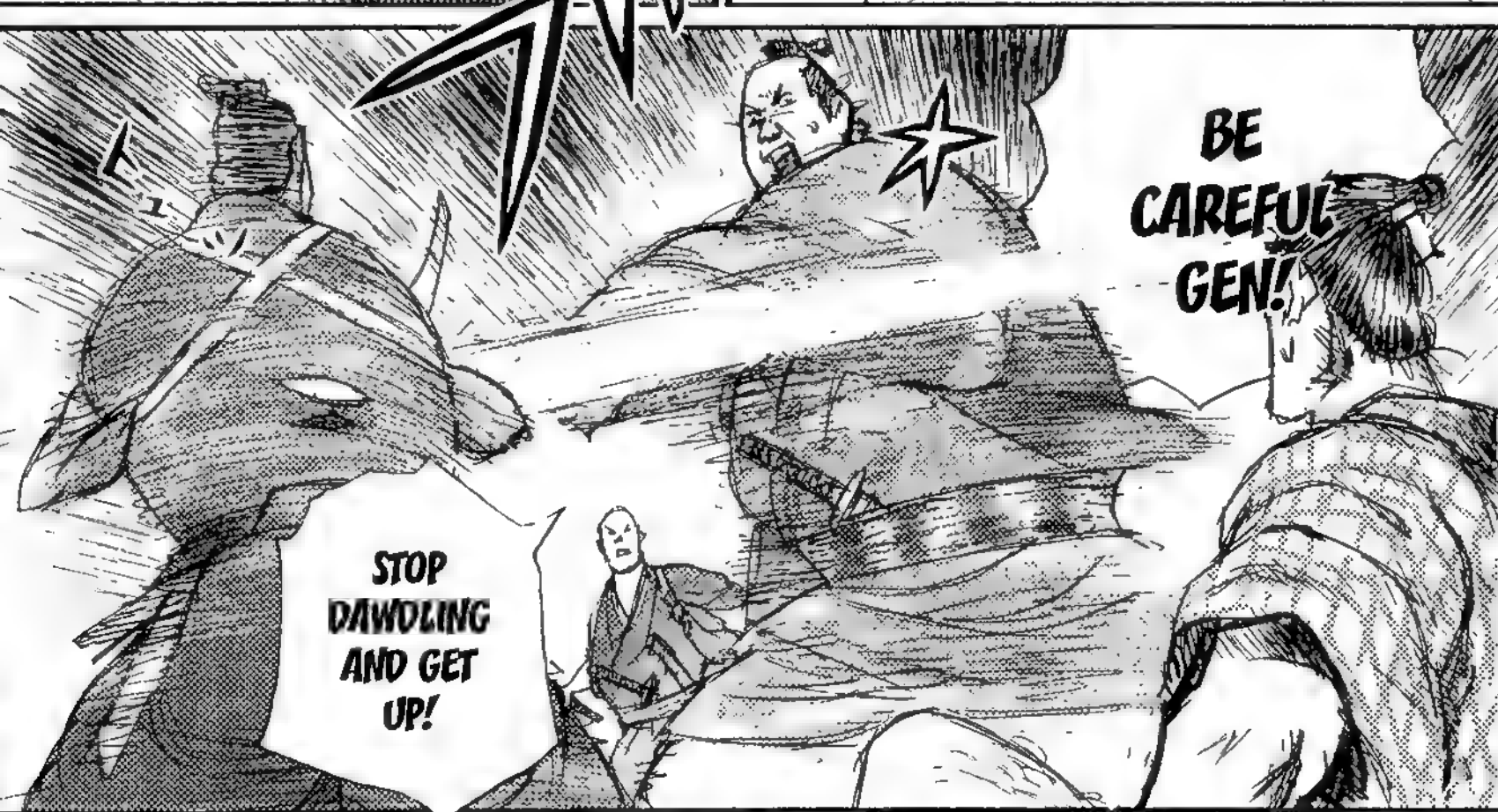


**WHAA!**



**WHOAH!**

SFX:  
clunk,  
Chieeee!



**BE  
CAREFUL  
GEN!**

**STOP  
DAWLING  
AND GET  
UP!**

SFX:  
Whoosh



**BRO!  
WE'VE  
HIT OUR  
LIMIT!**



**THAT'S  
AN  
ORDER  
FROM  
LORD  
KAIEDA!**

**DON'T  
USE  
GUNS!**

SFX:  
Whoosh!



SFX:  
Clang

**HURRY UP  
AND KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU!**

**STOP  
HESI-  
TATING  
AND GO,  
USHI!**

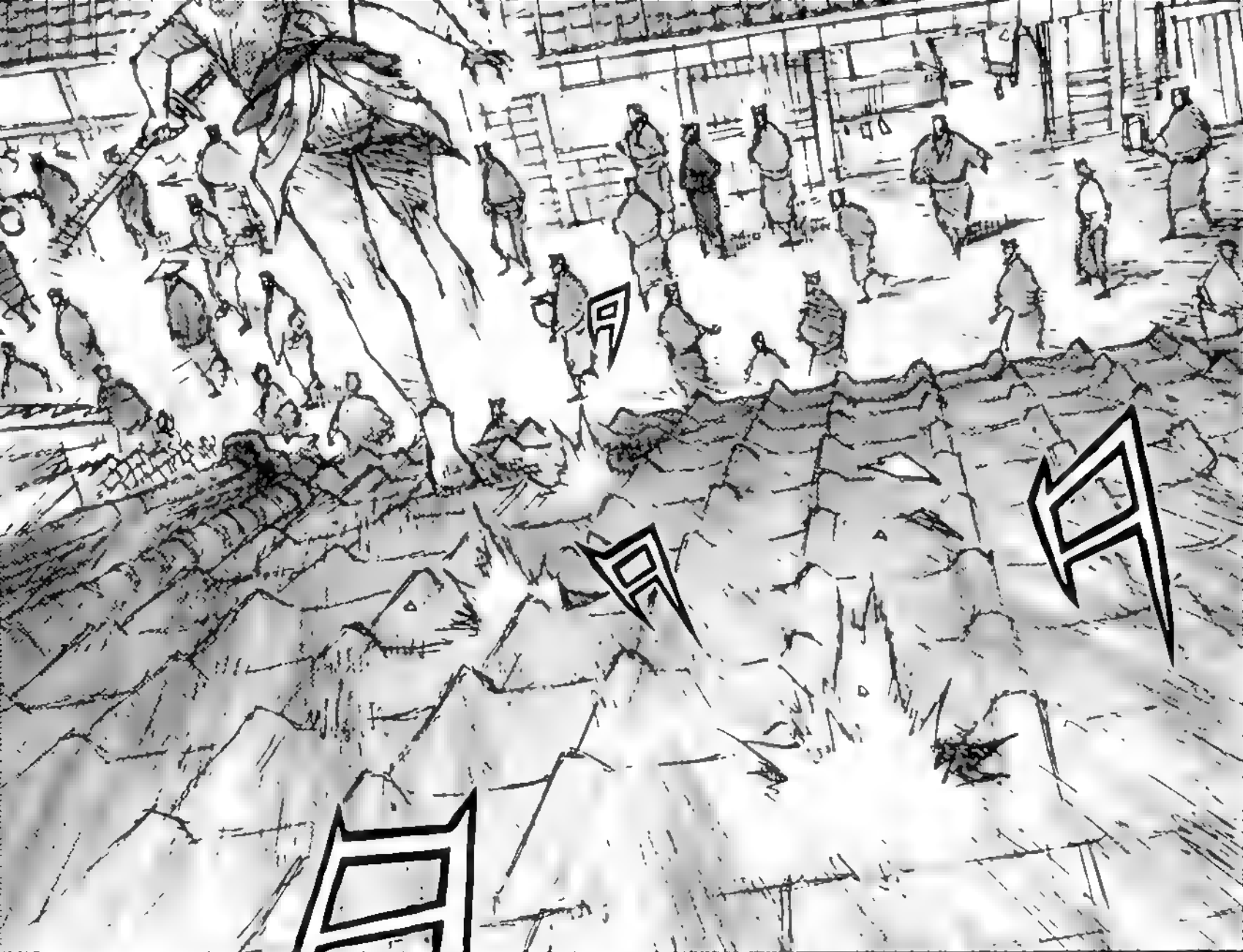
THEY STILL  
CAME TO  
RESCUE  
ME...

THEY  
KNEW IT  
WAS DAN-  
GEROUS...

**THERE'S  
NO TIME  
TO  
THINK!**

**SHIT!**

SFX:  
Tap



SFX:  
Running

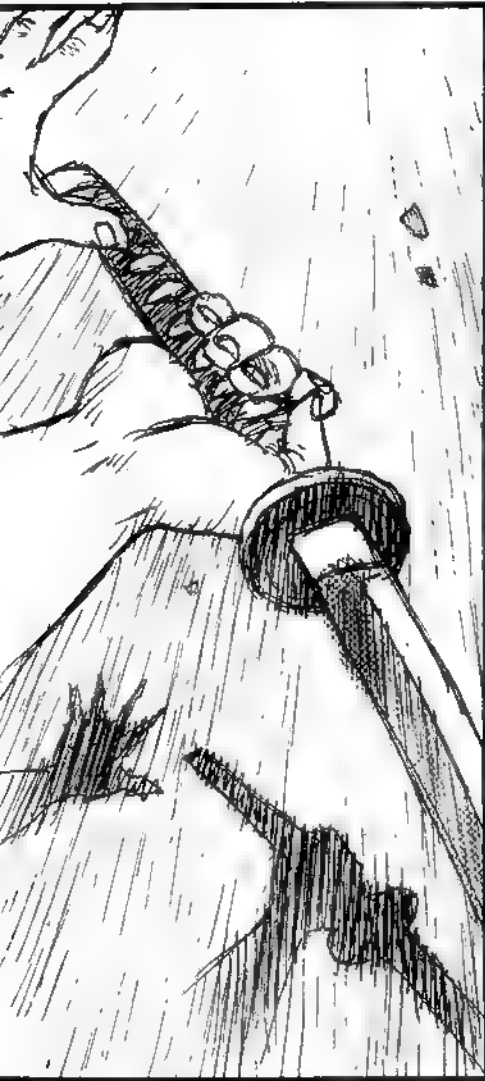
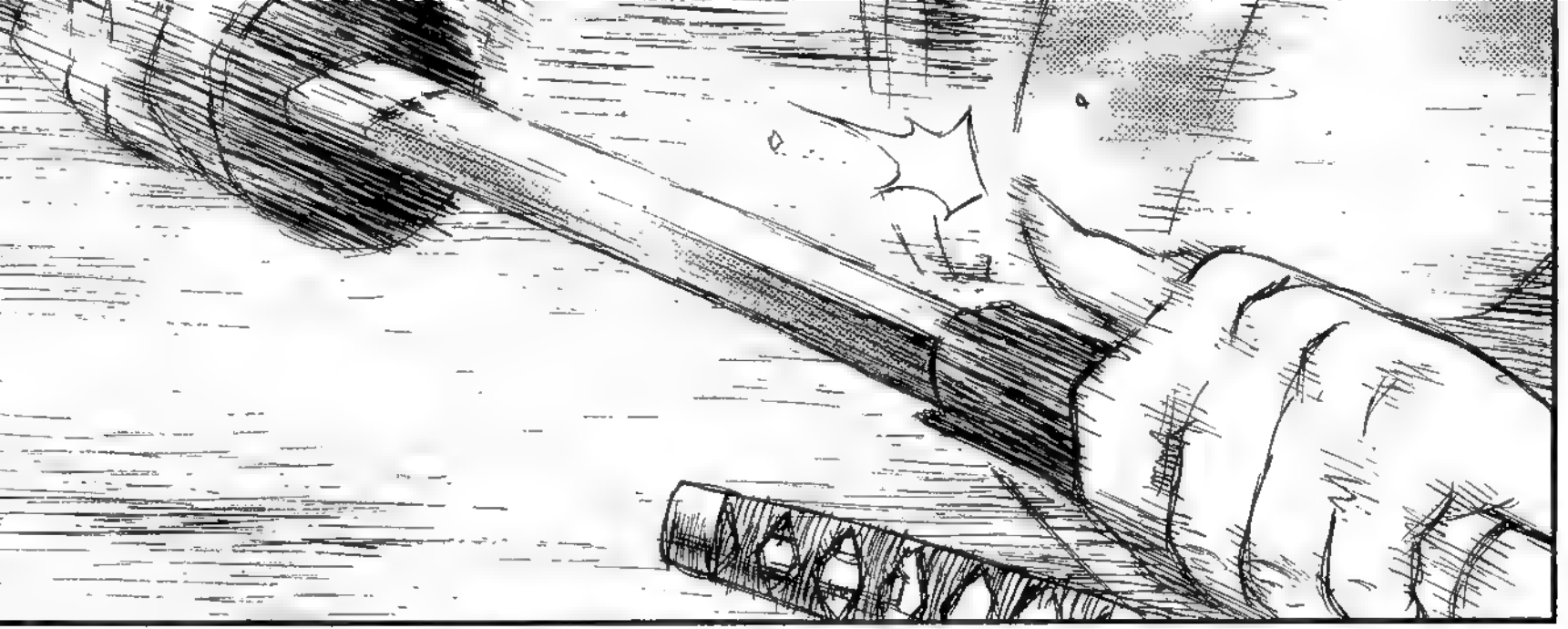




SFX:  
Wham!  
Roll!

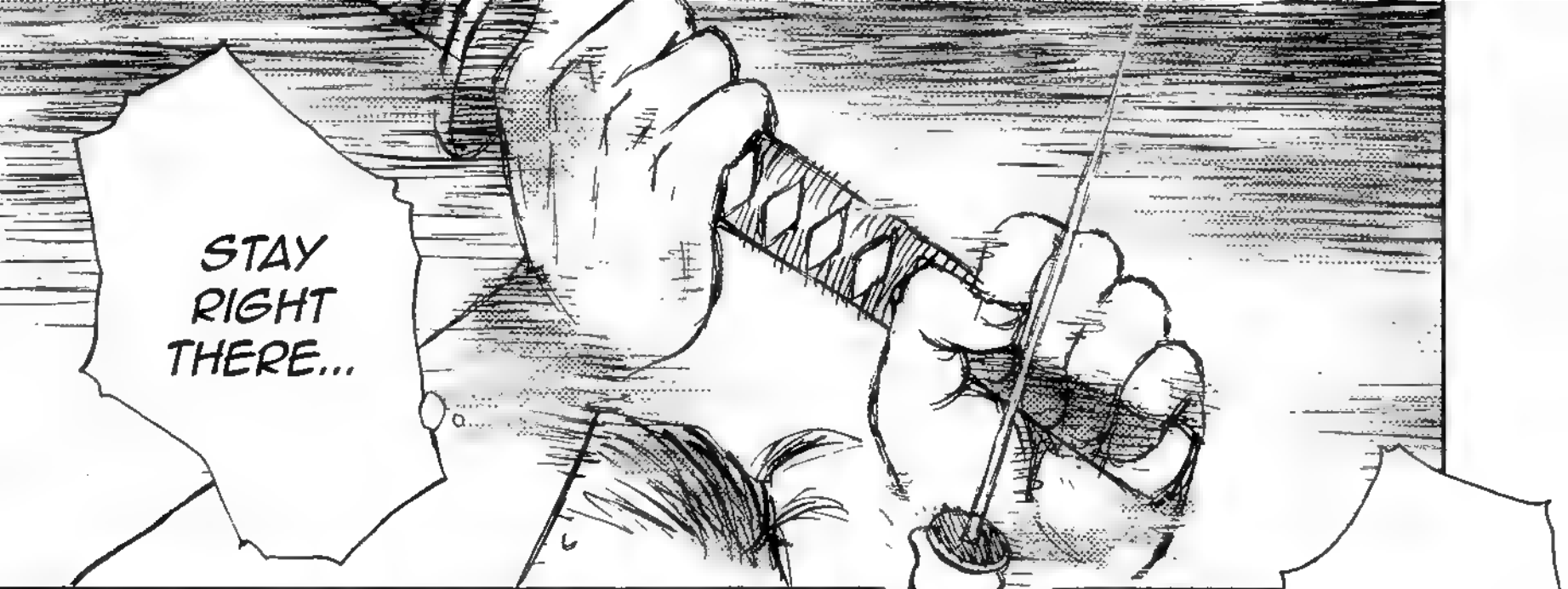












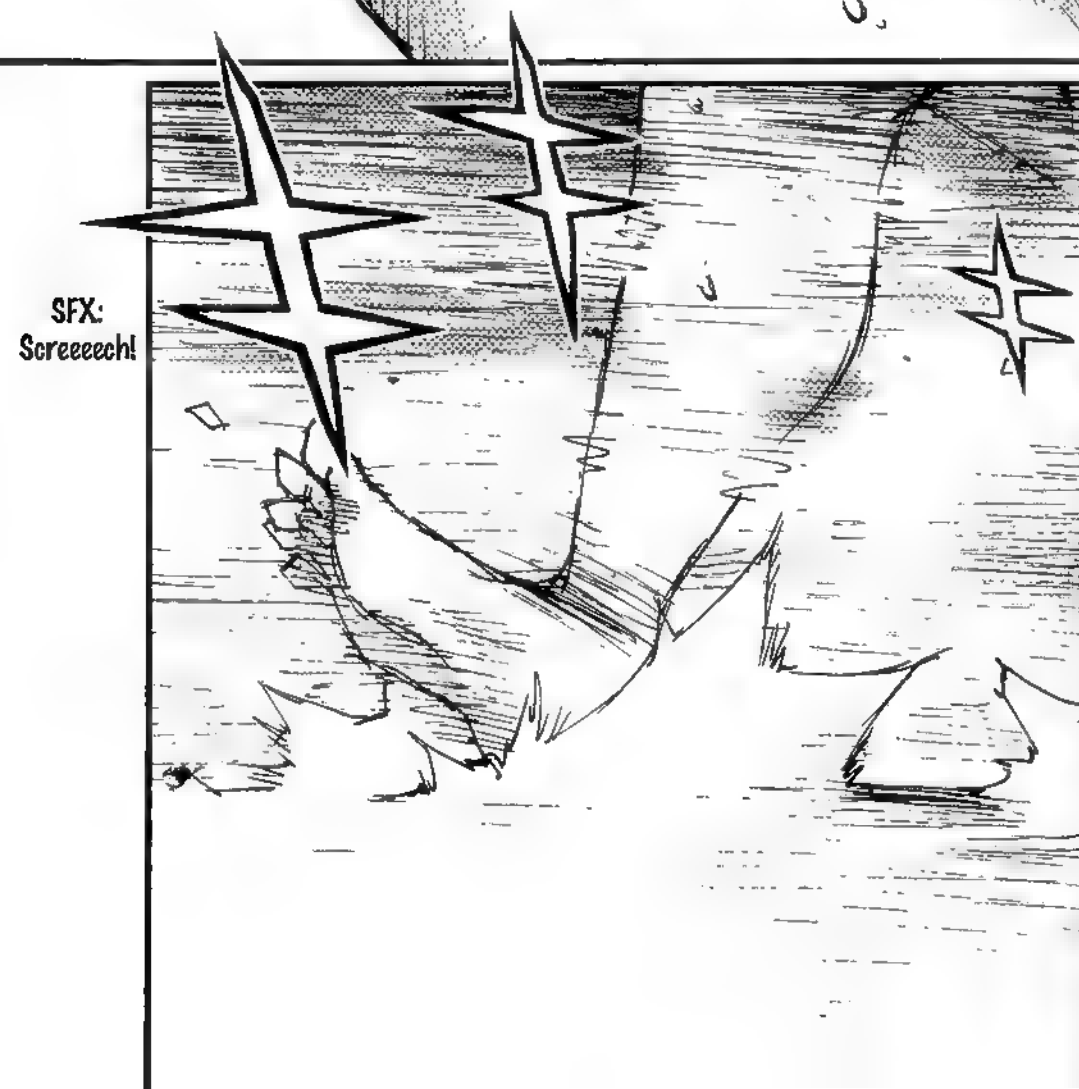
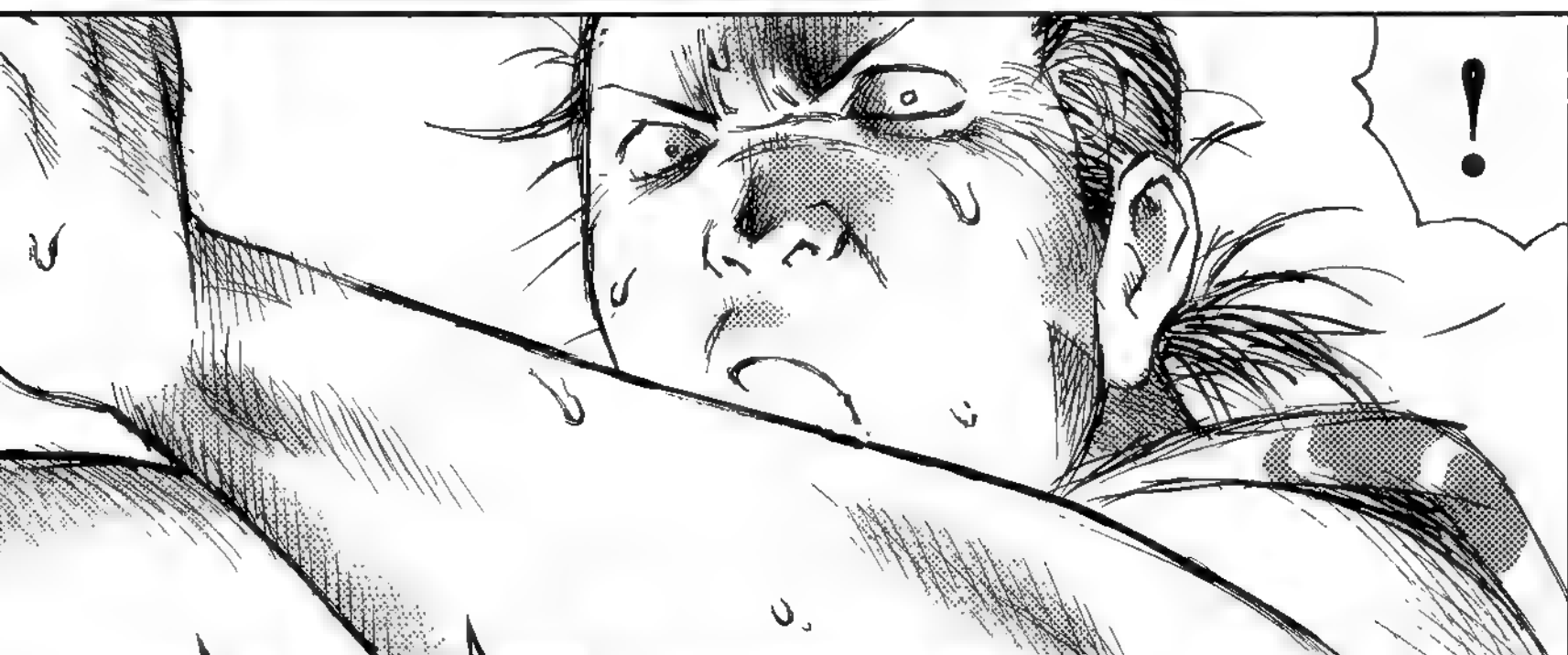
STAY  
RIGHT  
THERE...



DON'T  
YOU  
DARE...

TURN  
AROUND!





SFX:  
Screeeech!



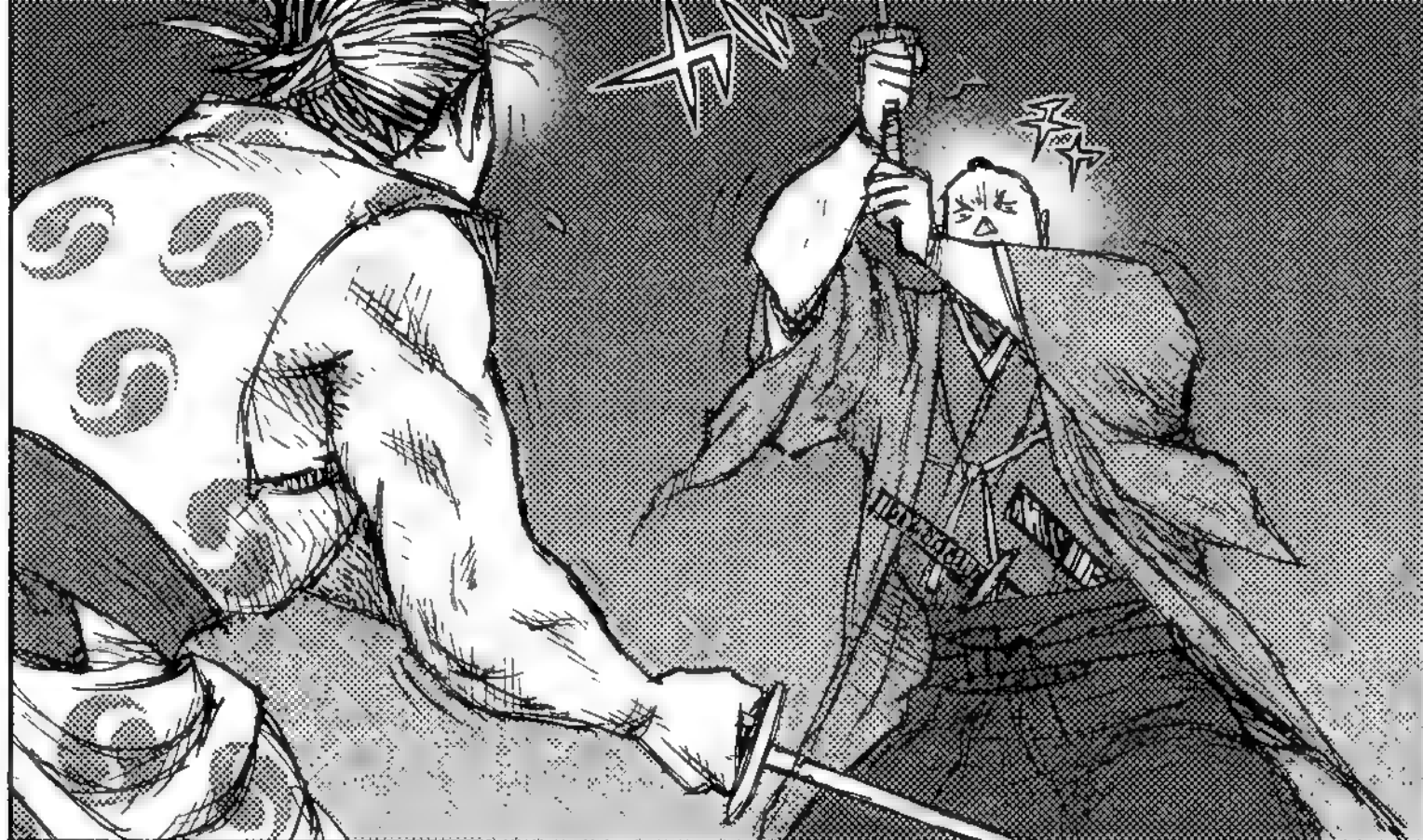
SFX:  
Whoosh!



OH  
NO...

OH...





SFX:  
Clink



THIS  
ENDS  
NOW.

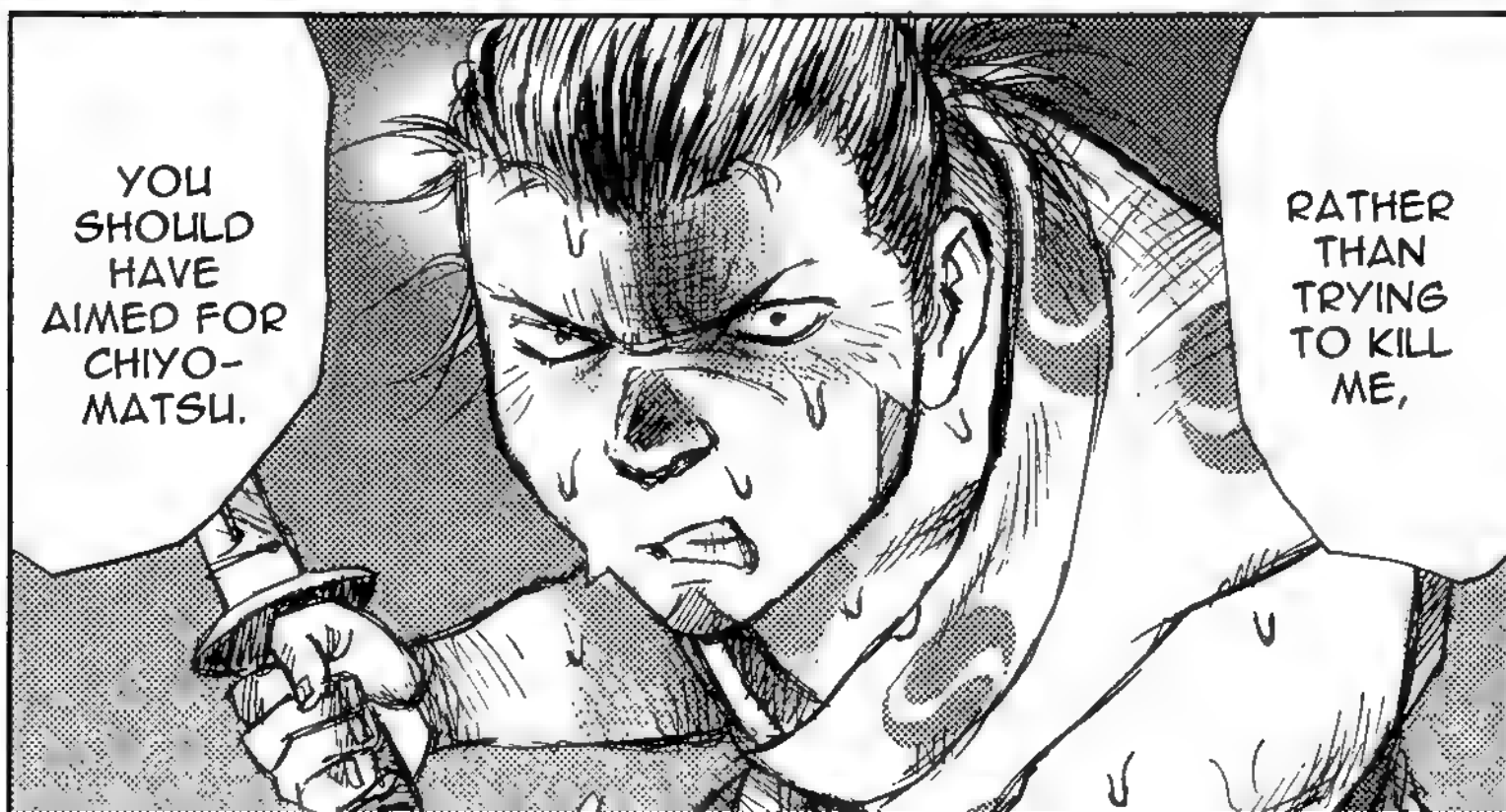
AND EVEN  
THOUGH  
YOU'RE A  
PEASANT,  
YOU SEEM  
TO HAVE  
SOME  
INTELLI-  
GENCE,  
HOW-  
EVER...



I GUESS  
AVOIDING  
IMUTA'S  
SLASH  
WASN'T  
JUST A  
FLUKE.

IT'S  
YOU,  
MIDGET.

TL/N and  
PR/N —  
The 蘭牟田  
surname  
can be  
translated  
both as  
Imuda or  
Imuta. The  
*furigana*  
lists the big  
samurai's  
name as  
"Imuta",  
so going  
forward,  
we'll use  
that  
spelling.



YOU  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
AIMED FOR  
CHIYO-  
MATSU.

RATHER  
THAN  
TRYING  
TO KILL  
ME,



CHAPTER 16 RESOLUTION





I WON'T  
LAY A  
HAND  
ON THE  
OTHERS.

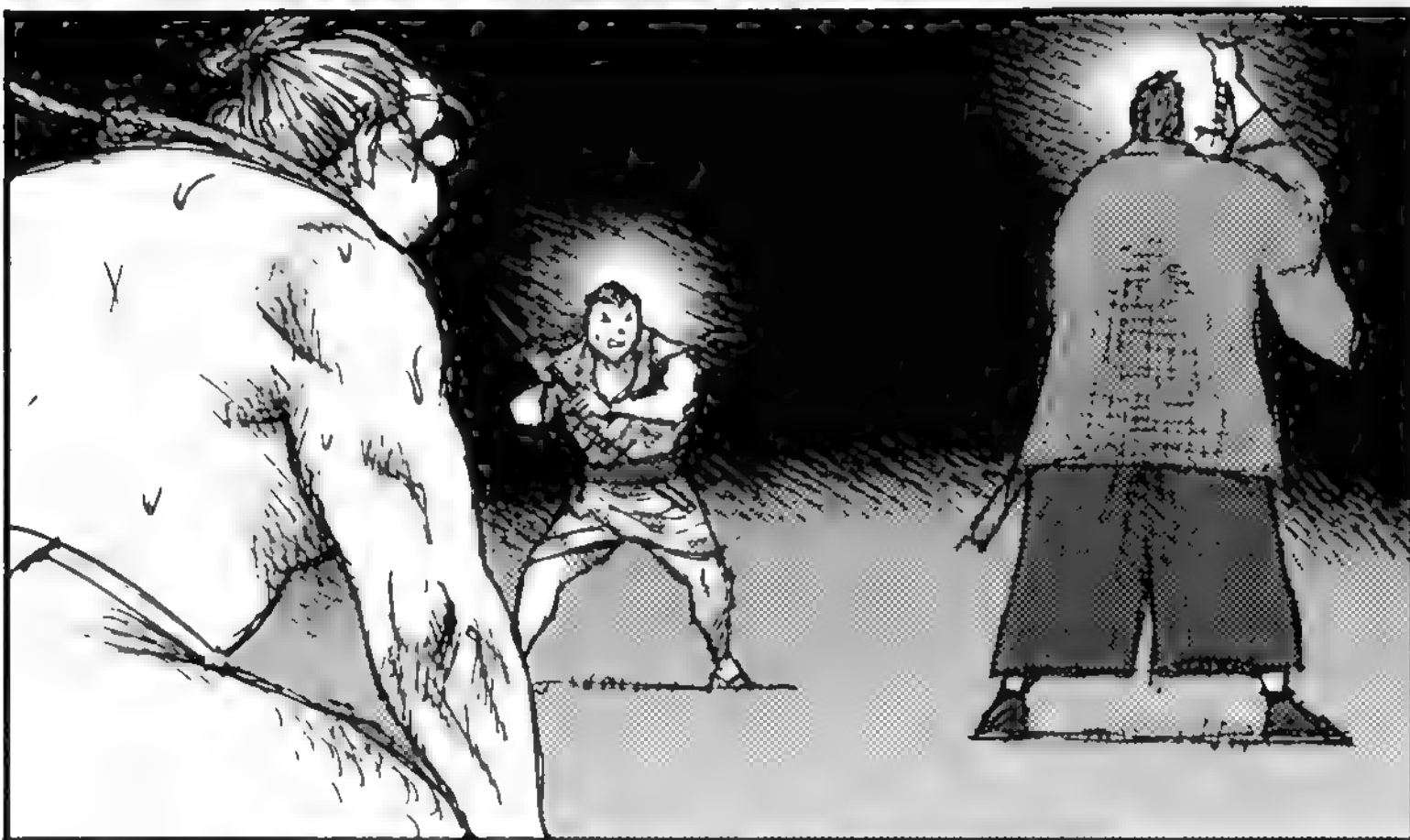
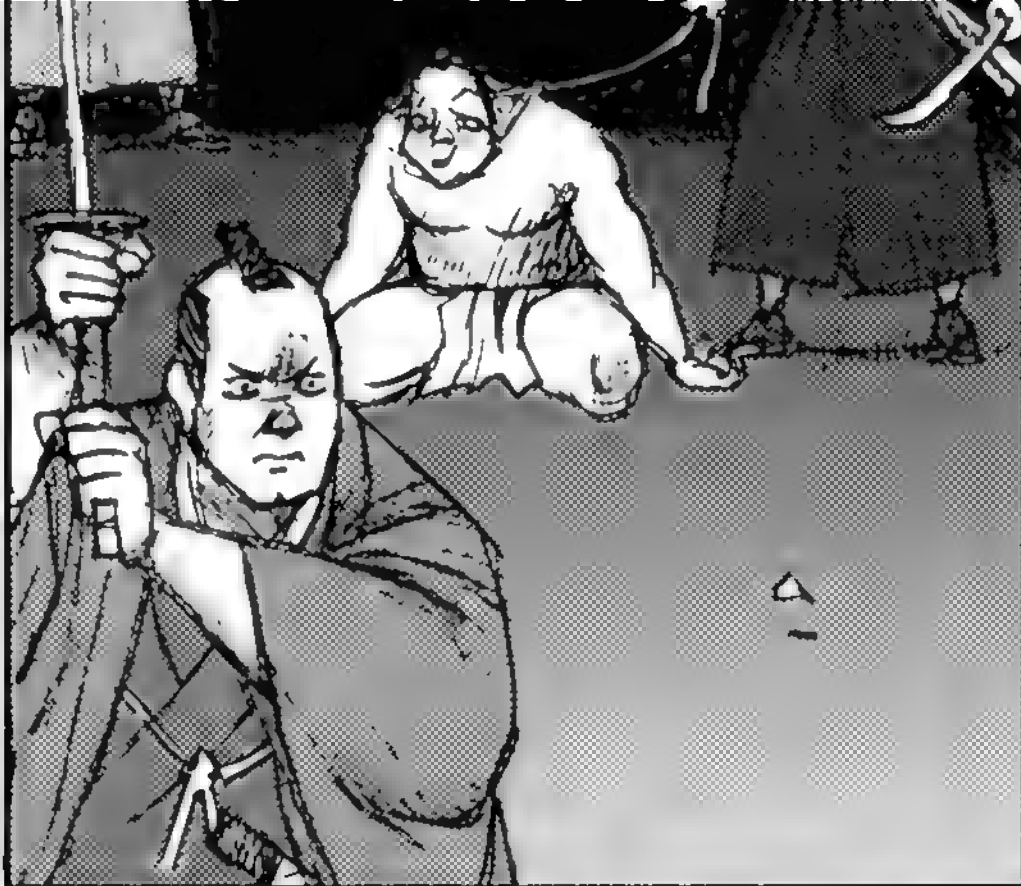
DON'T  
WORRY,  
PEASANT.



FACE  
TO  
FACE.

LET'S  
FIGHT,





SFX:  
Clink

UNTIL I  
DO THIS  
GUY IN...

I CAN'T  
THINK ABOUT  
KILLING OR  
RESCUING  
CHIYOMATSU

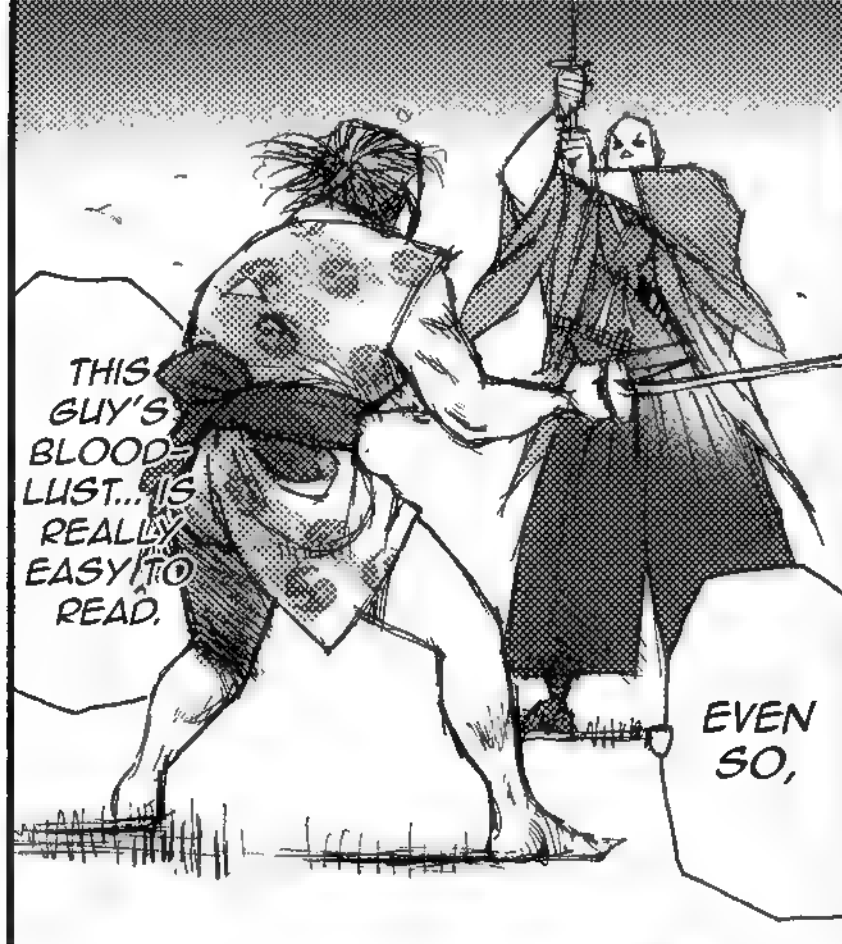




HE'S IN  
A STARING  
CONTEST  
WITH A  
SAMURAI...

USHI-  
BRO, WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING!?





THIS  
GUY'S  
BLOOD-  
LUST... IS  
REALLY  
EASY TO  
READ.

EVEN  
SO,



SFX:  
Scrunch...



I MIGHT  
BE ABLE  
TO TAKE  
HIM  
DOWN...

IF  
IT'S  
LIKE  
THIS,

SFX:  
Deep  
breath



THEN  
FINISH  
HIM AS  
HIS BODY  
COL-  
LAPSES.

THEN...  
I'LL TAKE  
OUT HIS  
LEGS,

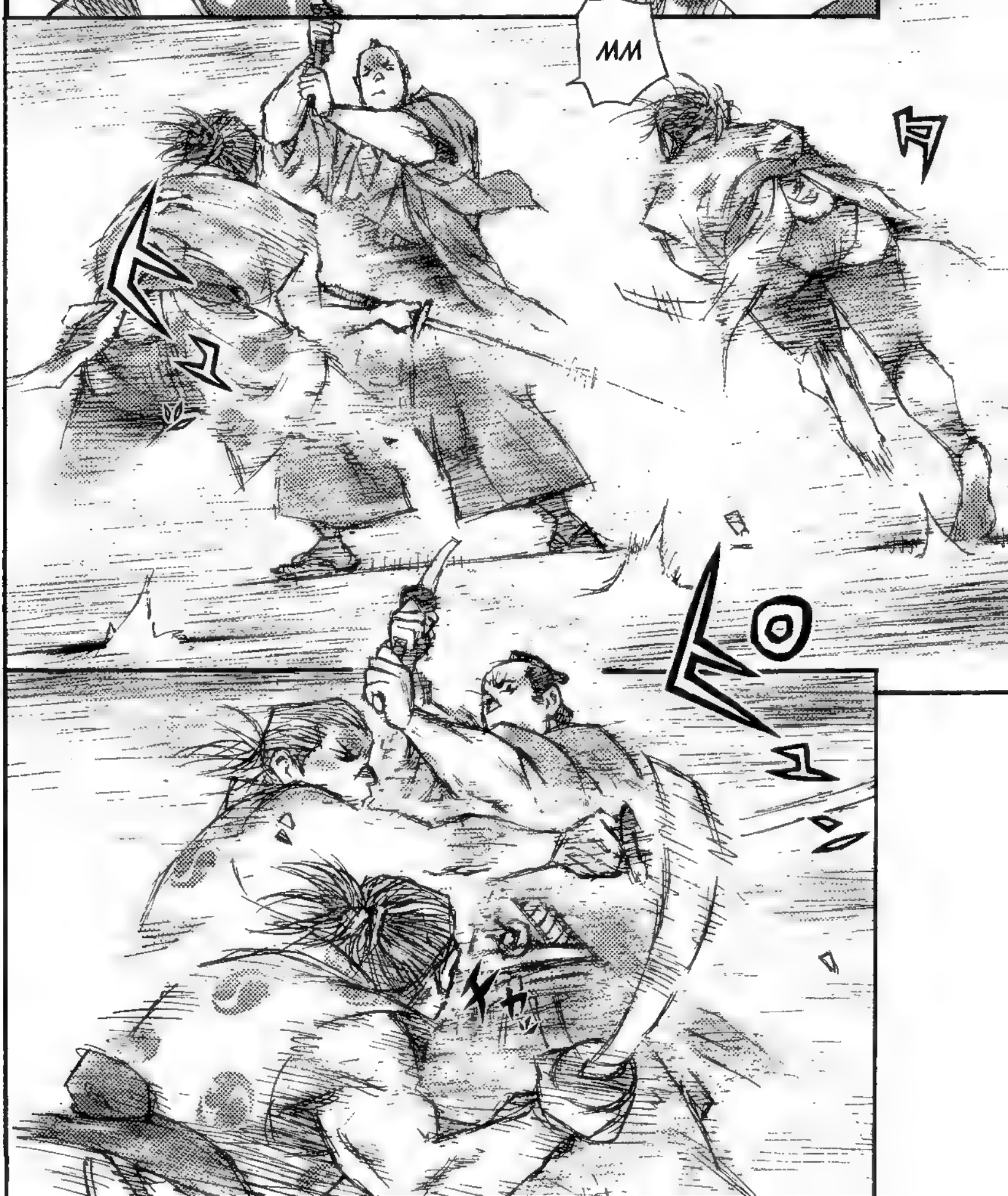
NO...  
TO THE  
RIGHT?

THEN  
HE'LL  
SLASH  
DIAGO-  
NALLY  
TO THE  
LEFT...

FIRST,  
HE'LL  
DODGE  
RIGHT  
FROM MY  
STAB-  
BING  
ATTACK  
...

SFX:  
Slide,  
Foot  
dragging





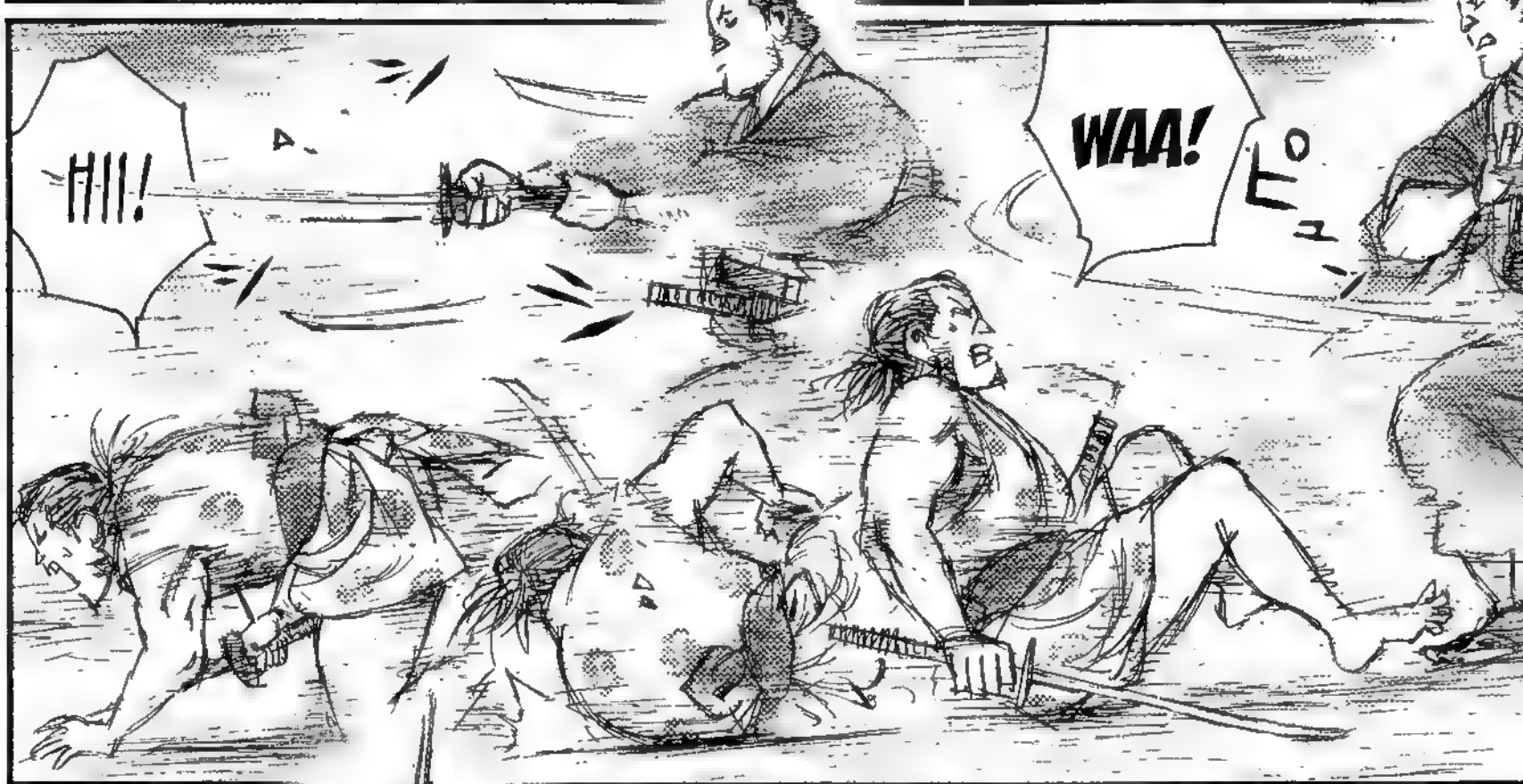




SFX:  
Bam!  
Step,  
step



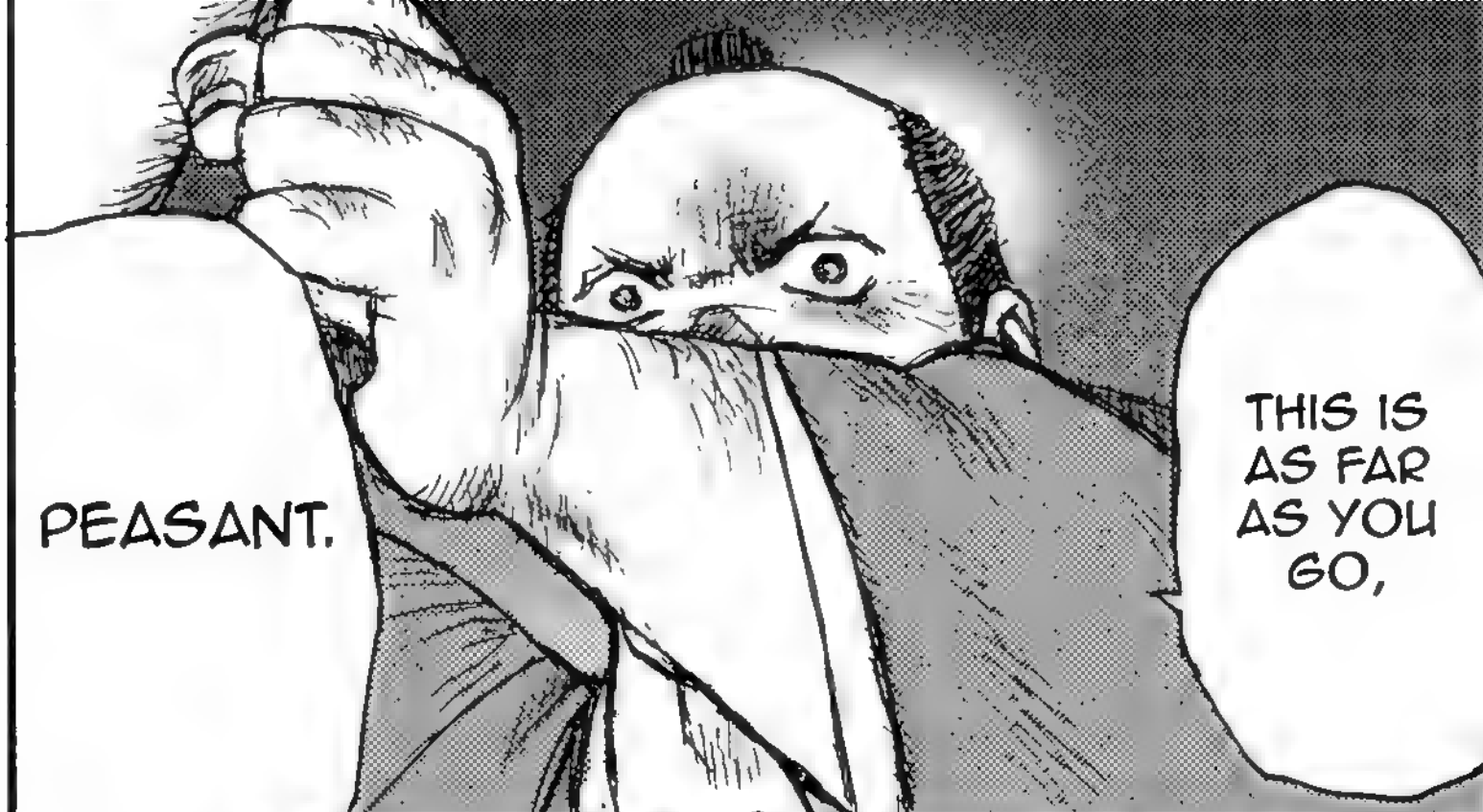
SFX:  
Shing,  
Stabbing



SFX:  
Clang,  
Click







PEASANT.

THIS IS  
AS FAR  
AS YOU  
GO,



YOU  
SHOULD  
UNDER-  
STAND  
THAT AT  
LEAST.

NOW,  
GIVE  
UP.



IT'S AS  
IF HE'S  
SOLVING  
A SHOGI  
PROB-  
LEM...

AS EX-  
PECTED  
OF LORD  
KAIEDA.



NOT ONLY  
THAT... HE  
PURPOSEFULLY  
LET OUT HIS  
BLOODLUST  
SO HE COULD  
SET ME UP.

EVEN IF I  
COULD READ  
HIS MOVES  
FROM HIS  
BLOODLUST,  
I COULDN'T  
KEEP UP  
WITH HIS  
SPEED.

TL/N &  
PR/N —  
Shogi  
is often  
referred  
to as  
Japanese  
chess and  
can have  
similar  
problems  
for players  
to check-  
mate  
their op-  
ponent.



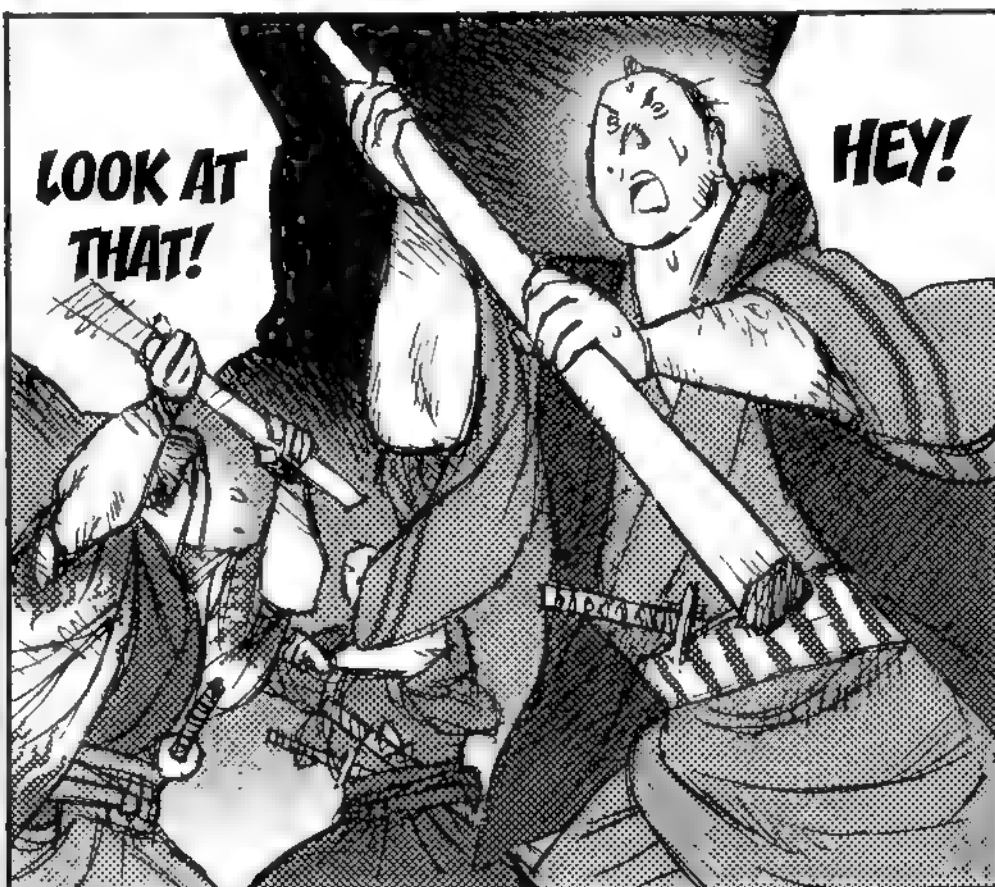
THIS  
ISN'T AN  
OPPONENT  
I CAN  
BEAT.

... IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,



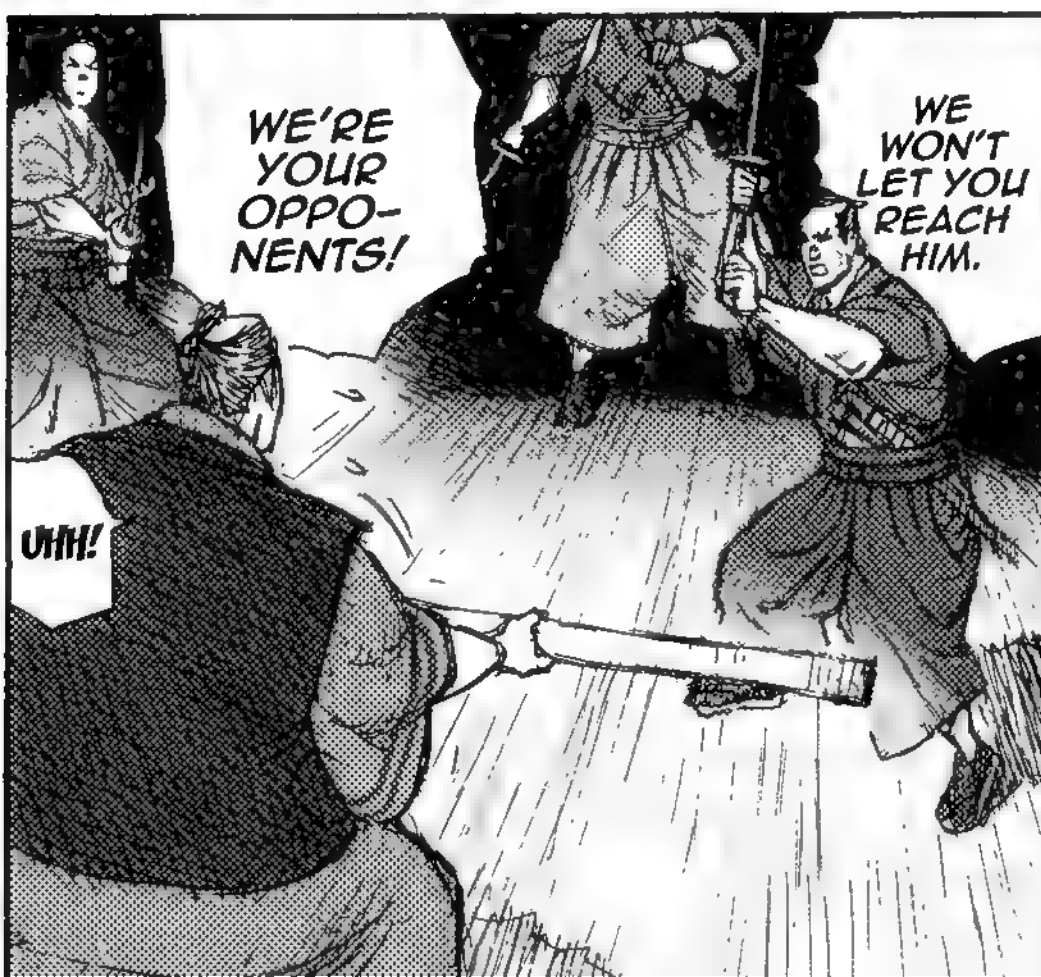
I'M A  
LITTLE  
BUSY  
HERE!

USHI-  
BRO IS  
GOING  
TO GET  
KILLED!



LOOK AT  
THAT!

HEY!



WE'RE  
YOUR  
OPPO-  
NENTS!

WE  
WON'T  
LET YOU  
REACH  
HIM.

UHH!



I'M  
COMING  
FOR  
YOU!

BRO!





IF YOU  
MOVE  
AT ALL,

YOU'RE  
DEAD.



UNTIL THEN,  
DON'T  
EVEN THINK  
ABOUT  
MOVING.

NOW,  
MY MEN  
ARE GOING  
TO USE  
ROPE TO  
TIE YOU  
UP.



SFX:  
Stepping



I'M  
GOING  
TO GET  
TORTURED  
AND THEN  
KILLED!

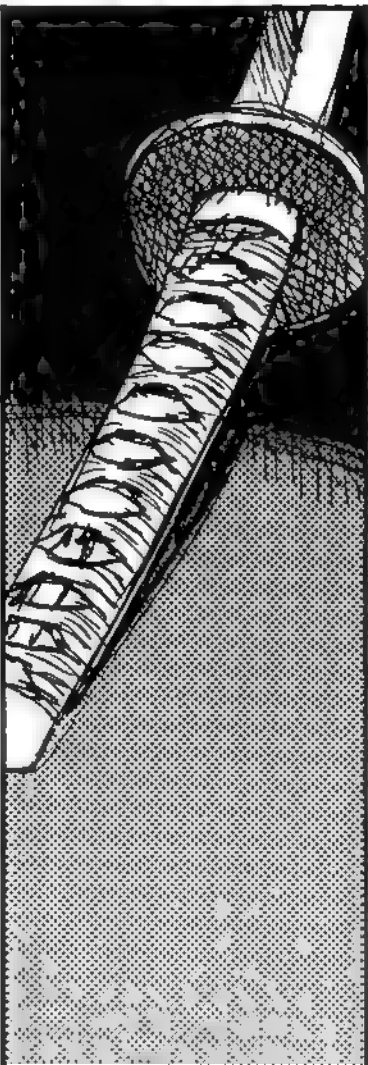
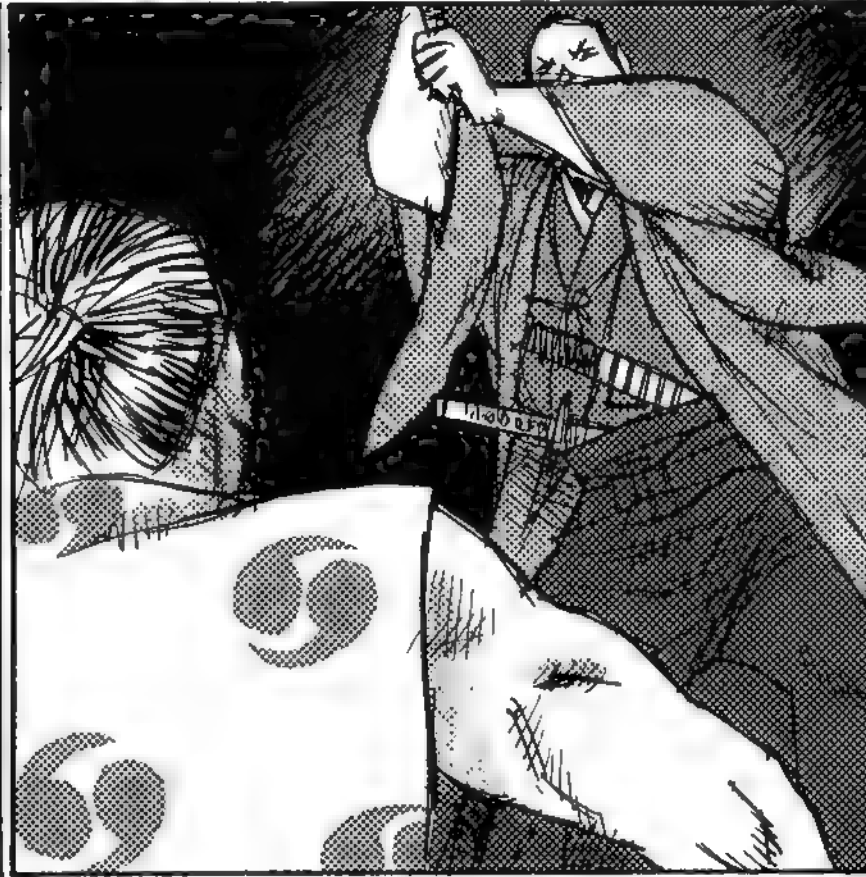
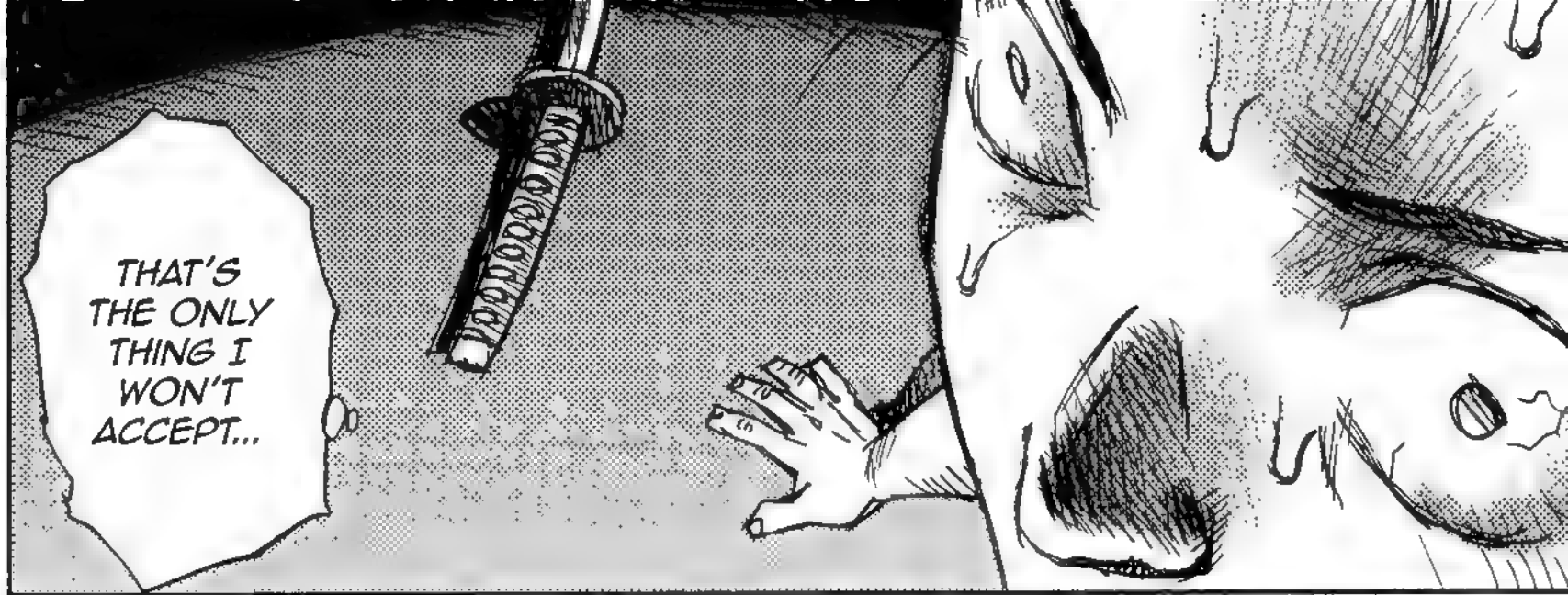


THIS  
ISN'T  
FUNNY!

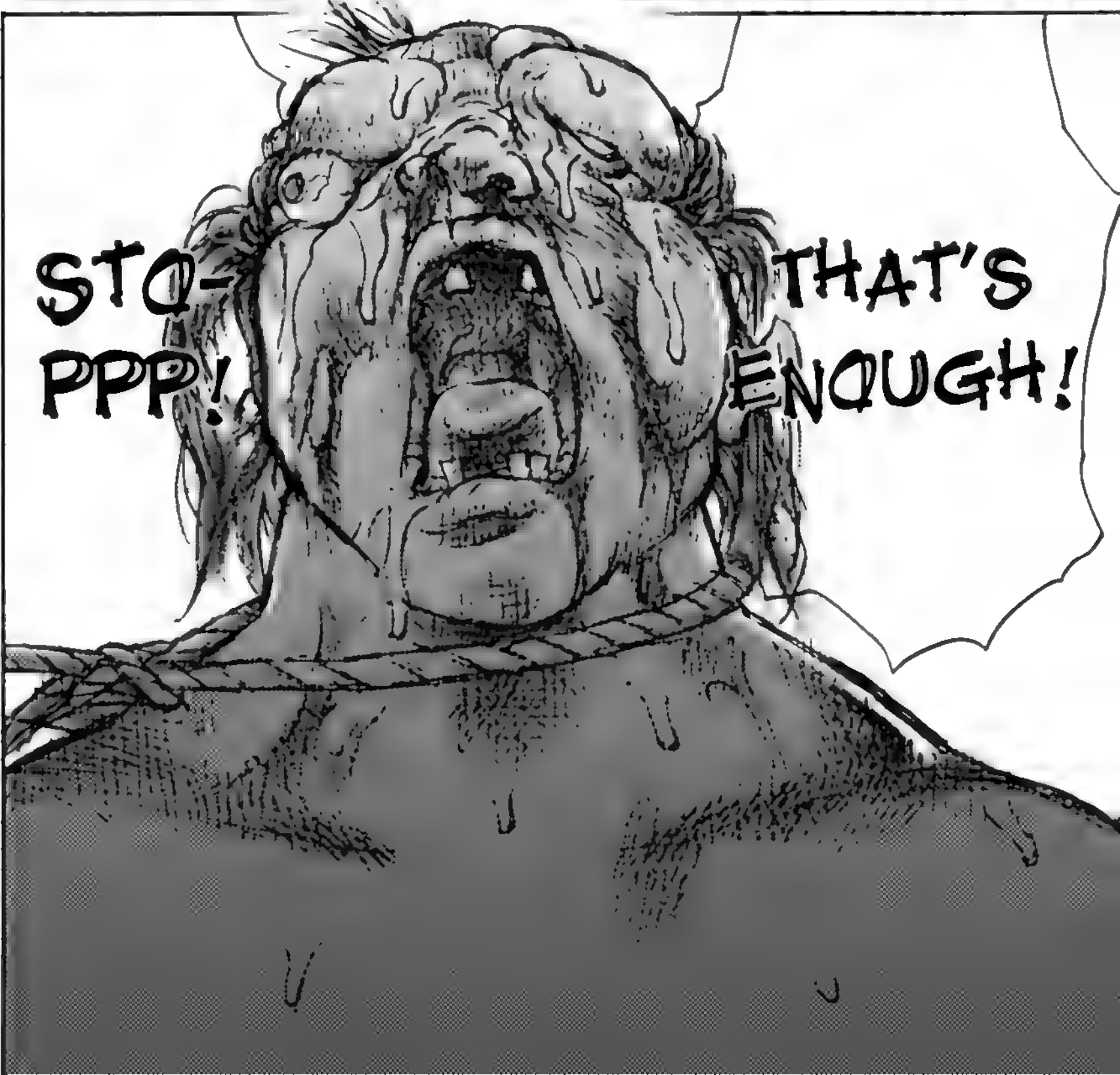
SHIT!

SFX:  
Closing





SFX:  
Whip.  
Whoosh



STO-  
PPP!

THAT'S  
ENOUGH!





YOU GUYS  
WILL END  
UP GETTING  
CAUGHT  
AS WELL!

I'M  
ALRIGHT,  
SO JUST  
RUN  
AWAY!

SFX:  
Crack!  
Slam!

YOU  
PEAS-  
ANT!

SHUT UP  
AND SIT  
DOWN!

AREN'T  
PEAS-  
ANTS!

WE, THE  
ONE STRIKE,  
ONE KILL  
SQUAD...

I AM NOT  
A PEAS-  
ANT...

I...

AH?



JUST TO  
RESCUE  
THEIR  
FRIENDS!

THEY  
PUT THEIR  
LIVES ON  
THE LINE,



THERE'S  
NO WAY  
THOSE GUYS  
ARE JUST  
PEASANTS!



THEY  
DEFINITELY  
WOULDN'T  
ABANDON  
THEM!



CAN YOU  
SHUT UP  
ALREADY  
!?



THESE GUYS  
ARE REAL  
SAMURAI!

SFX:  
Bang!



SFX:  
Slam!



SFX:  
Wobble...







FORGET  
YOU  
GUYS!

I WON'T  
EVER

SFX:  
Turn



CHI-



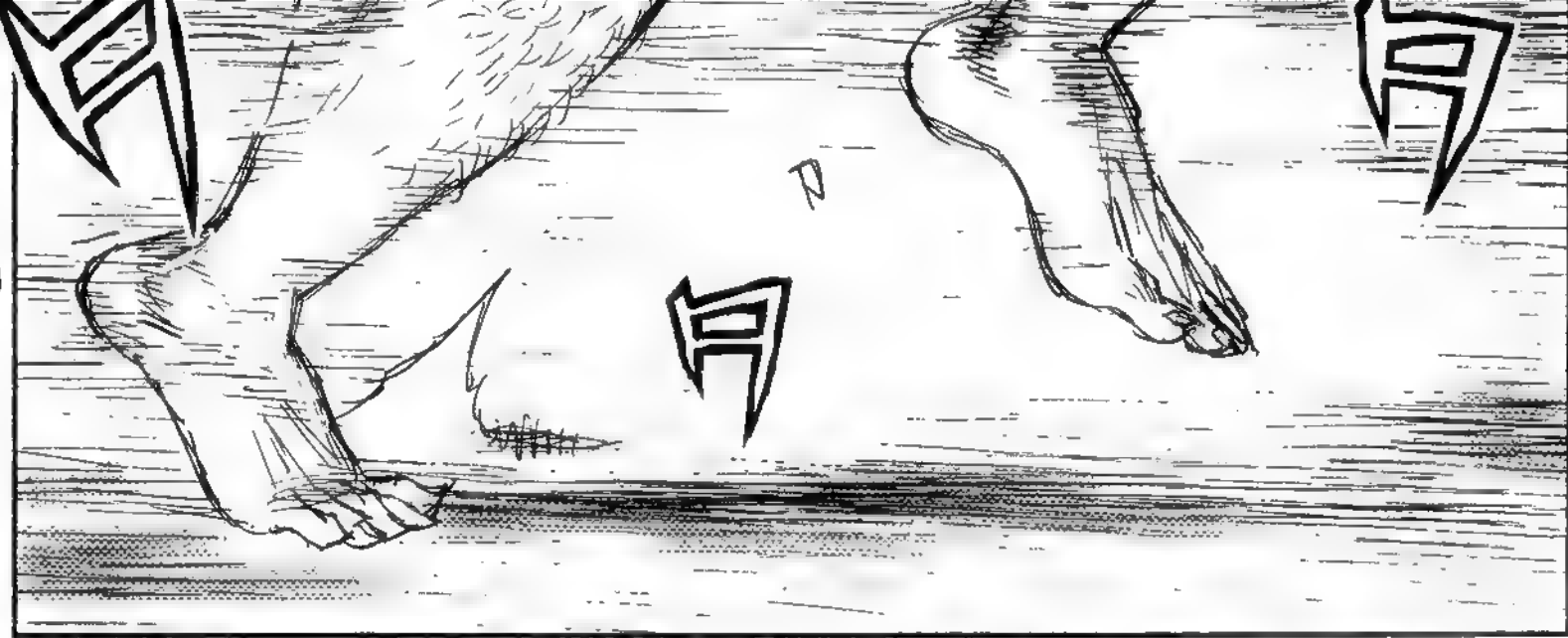
CHIYO-  
MATSU  
!?

SFX:  
Footsteps



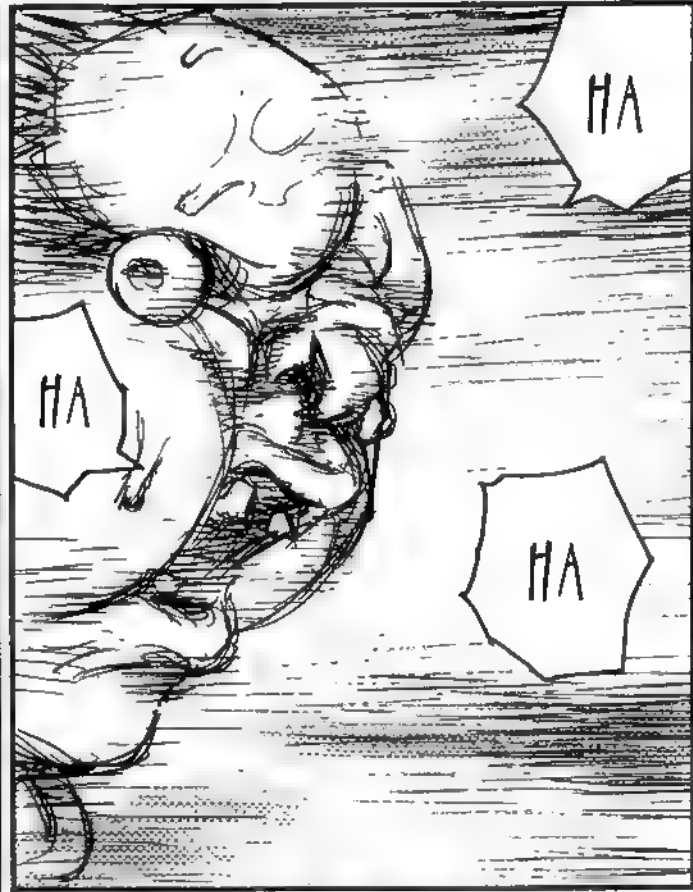
HMM  
...?

SFX:  
Running



NO  
WAY...

WHAT  
IS...  
COULD  
HE BE...



HA

HA

HA



EH?

WHA  
...



JUST  
STOP  
HIM!

DON'T  
KILL  
HIM!

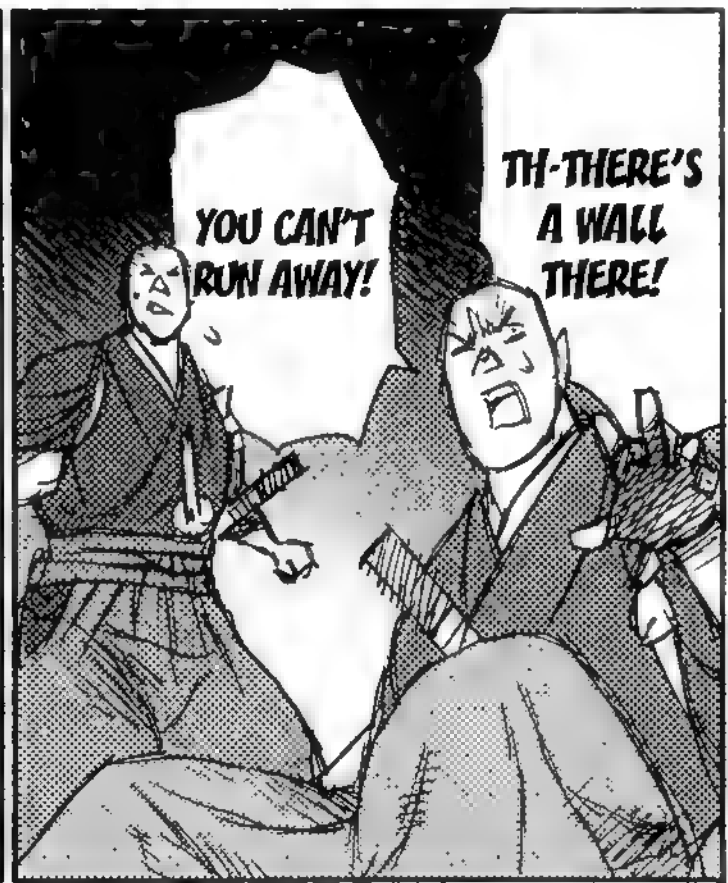
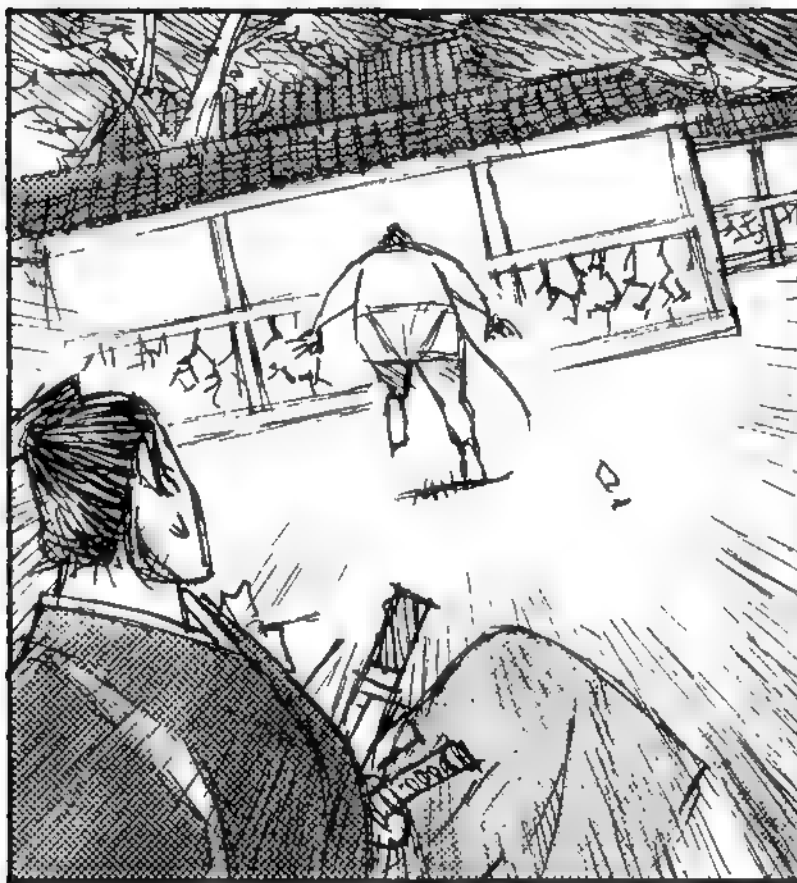


DAMN  
PEASANT!

SFX:  
Clink



SFX:  
Boom!



CHIYO-  
MATSU...



SFX:  
OOOOOOH





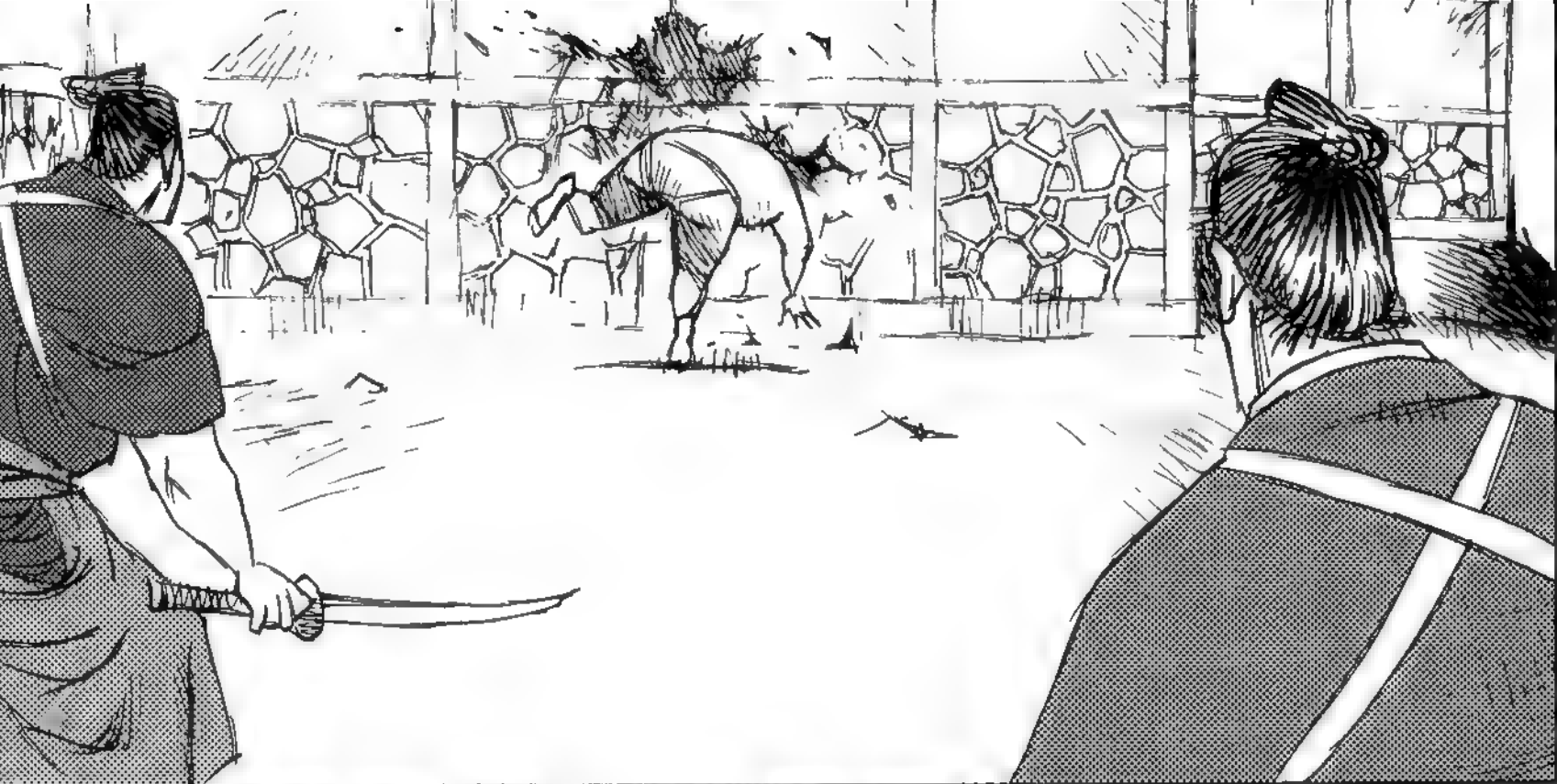
I AM A  
SAMU-  
RAI!

I AM A  
SAMURAI  
OF THE  
ONE  
STRIKE,  
ONE KILL  
SQUAD!

SFX: CRASH!!!

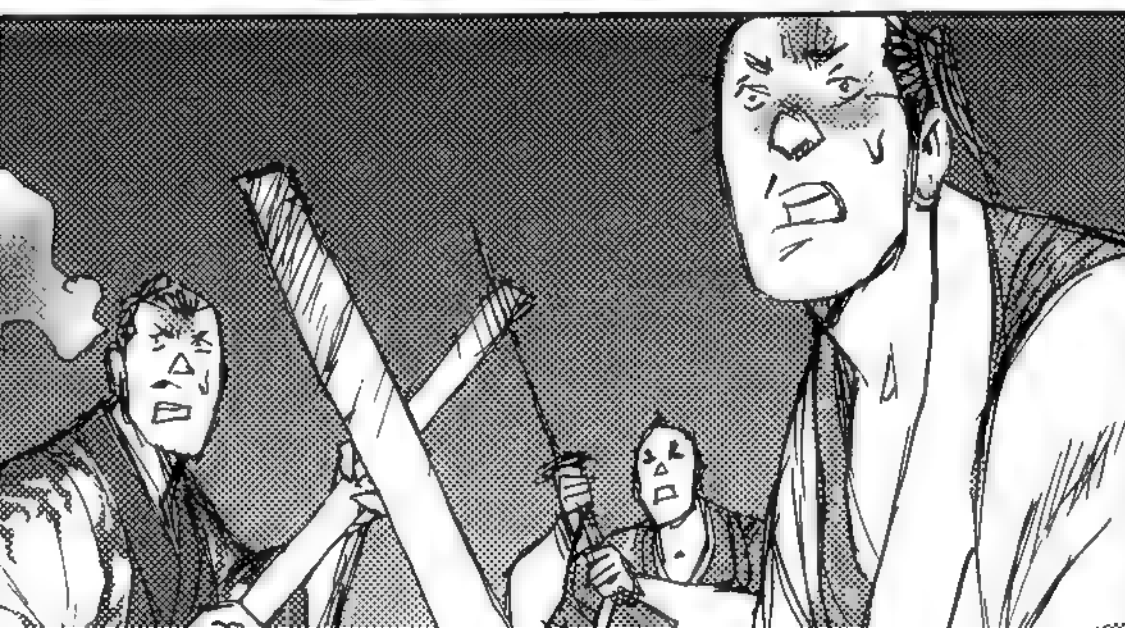






HE WENT  
AND SPLIT  
HIS OWN  
HEAD  
OPEN...

TH-THIS  
GUY...







CHI-  
YAAA!

WASA,  
CALM  
DOWN!



UU  
UH!

UH...

UU  
UU  
UH...

CHIYO-  
MATSU-  
UU!



SFX:  
Fwoom!  
Bam!



FOL-  
LOW  
YONE!

PULL  
BACK!



EVERYONE  
IS POOOO!



YOU'RE  
POOOO!

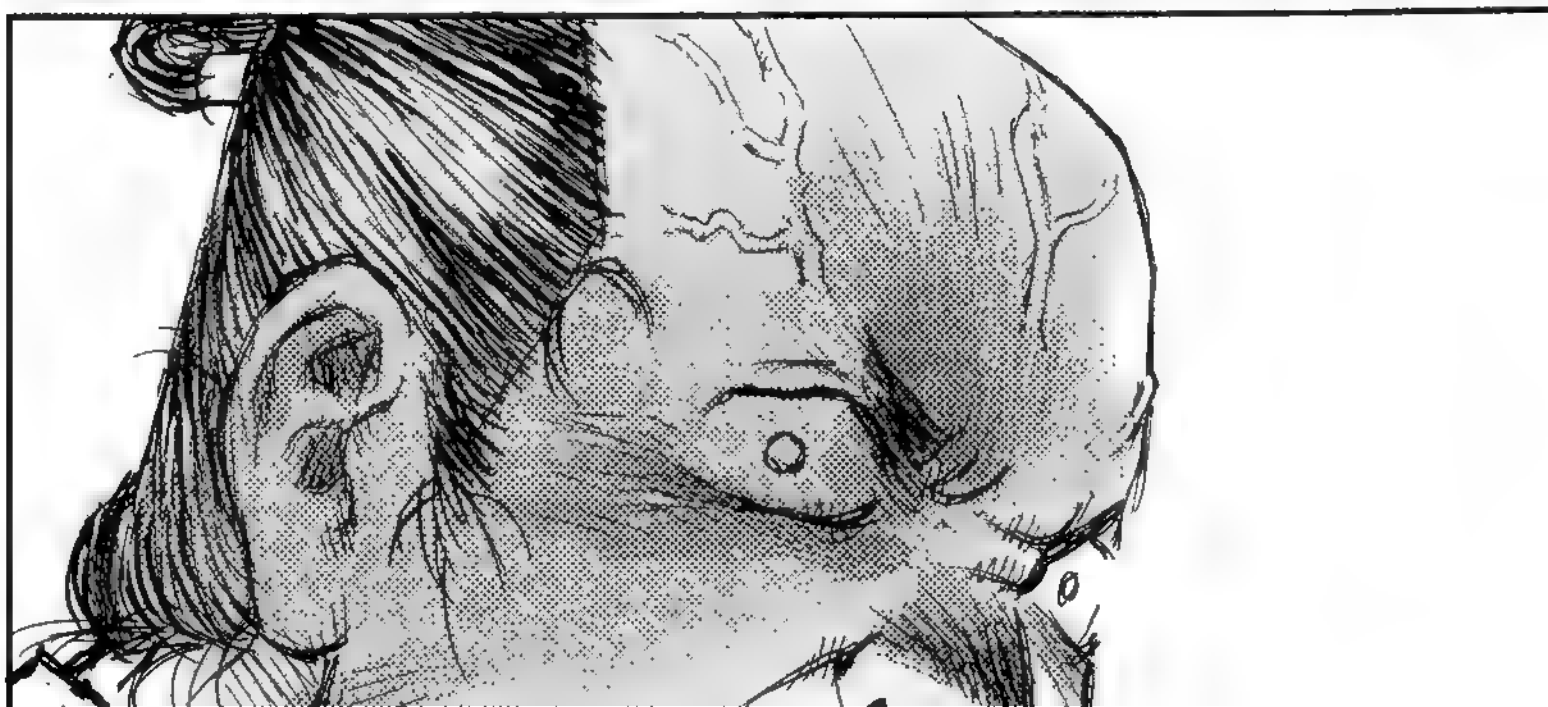




SUCH A  
FOOLISH  
THING  
TO DO...

EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY SAID  
THEY WERE  
GOING TO  
RESCUE  
HIM...

SFX:  
Tap







SFX:  
Dash



SFX:  
Running





SFX:  
Running  
clink

**THIS  
GUY...**

**IS  
FUCKIN'  
FAST!**



**Hii!**

**THEY'RE  
COMING**

**THIS  
WAY!**







SFX:  
Step





SFX:  
T000000  
0000000  
0000000  
0000000  
0000000  
0000000  
0000000  
0000000  
0000000  
000!!!!



SFX: Stop!







## CHAPTER 17 REFORMING SHIT SQUAD





**NEWS-  
PAPERS!**

**TODAY'S  
NEWS-  
PAPERS!**

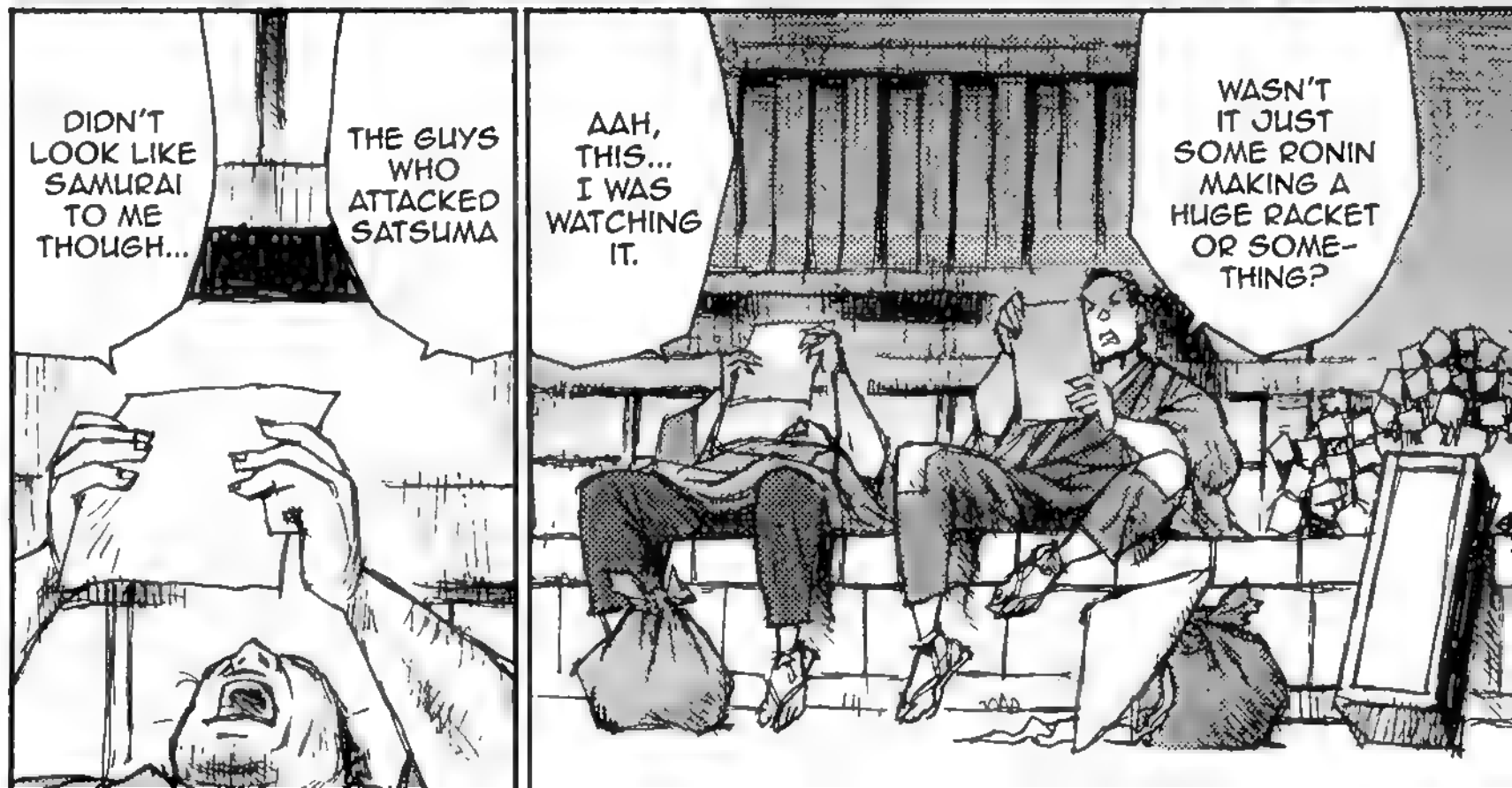


**THEY THREW  
THE SATSUMA  
SAMURAI INTO  
A HUGE  
PANIC!**

**THEY THREW  
UDOOON  
FLOUR AND  
SWUUNG  
CLUBS!**

GIVE  
ME  
ONE.

WE GOT  
NO IDEA  
WHAT  
YOU'RE  
SAYING,  
YOU  
SUCK.




DIDN'T  
LOOK LIKE  
SAMURAI  
TO ME  
THOUGH...

THE GUYS  
WHO  
ATTACKED  
SATSUMA

AAH,  
THIS...  
I WAS  
WATCHING  
IT.

WASN'T  
IT JUST  
SOME RONIN  
MAKING A  
HUGE RACKET  
OR SOMETHING?




I DON'T CARE AS LONG AS THEY CAN DEFEAT THOSE COUNTRY BUMPKIN SAMURAIS.

APPARENTLY, THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE SHINSENGUMI FROM KYOTO IS INVOLVED IN IT.




THE SHINCHOUGUMI WILL LOSE FACE IF THIS GOES ON!

IS IT ALRIGHT TO LET THESE STRANGERS DO WHATEVER THEY LIKE!?



BUT WHO ARE THESE GUYS? THEY CAN'T BE AMATEURS IF THEY MANAGED TO GET INTO A HUGE FIGHT WITH SATSUMA.

WHAT CAN WE DO? WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE HERE TO PATROL EDO.



WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO ENERGETIC?

CALM DOWN, KOTO.

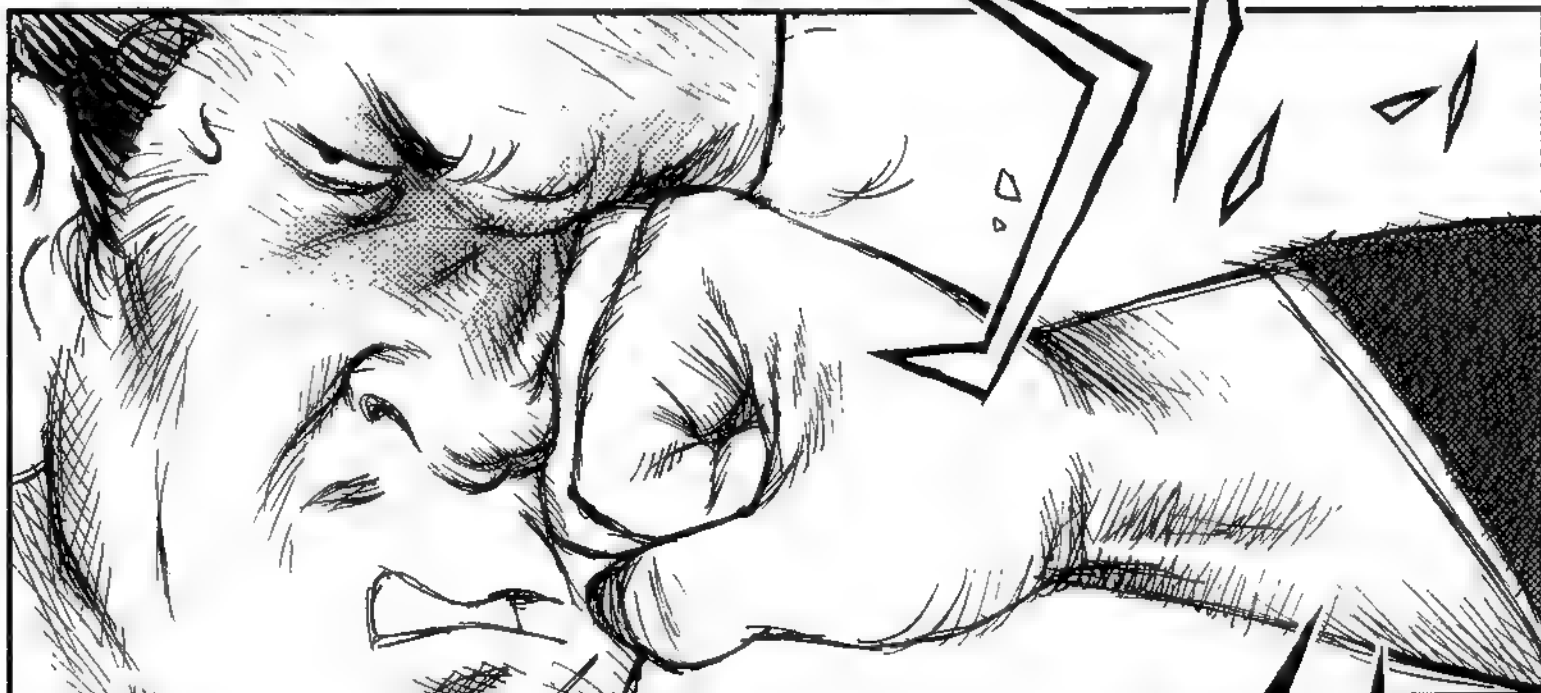


OH CRAP.

IF YOU ALL HAVE FINISHED PRACTICING THEN GO OUT ON PATROL NOW!

AREN'T YOU FRUSTRATED, BROTHER!?





SFX:  
Boof!



SFX:  
Smack!



SFX:  
Crack!

SFX: Oooff!

ARE  
YOU GUYS  
DOING!?

WHAT  
THE  
FUCK



SIR!

EXPLAIN  
YOUR-  
SELVES!

UNDERTAKING  
AN OPERATION  
BY YOURSELVES  
WITHOUT OUR  
PERMISSION!?

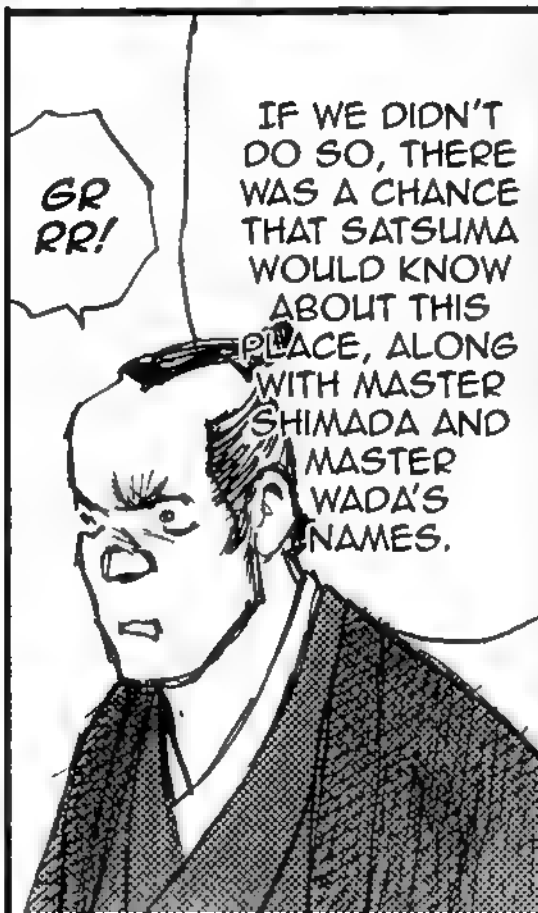


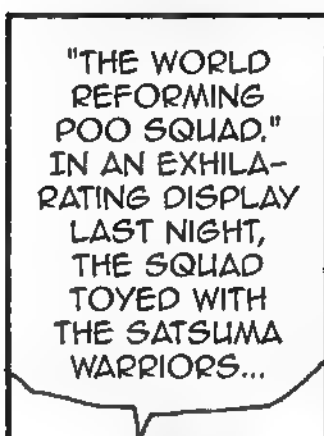
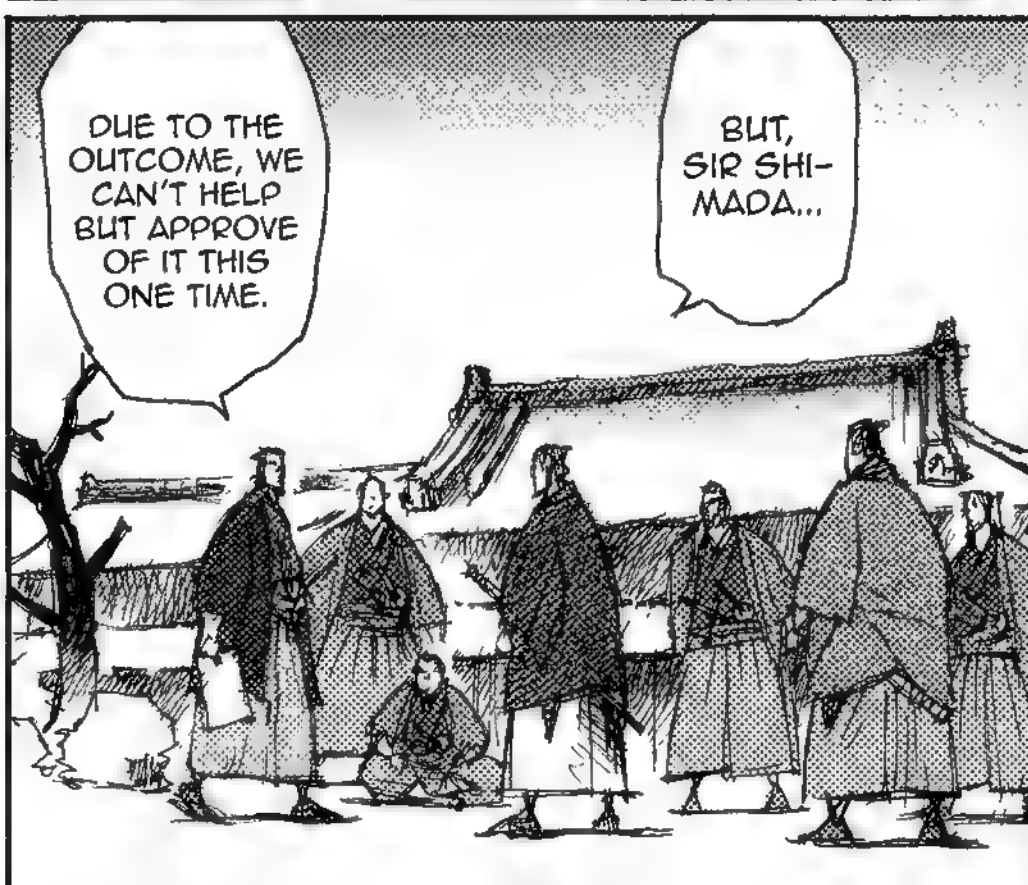
GR  
RR!

IF WE DIDN'T  
DO SO, THERE  
WAS A CHANCE  
THAT SATSUMA  
WOULD KNOW  
ABOUT THIS  
PLACE, ALONG  
WITH MASTER  
SHIMADA AND  
MASTER  
WADA'S  
NAMES.

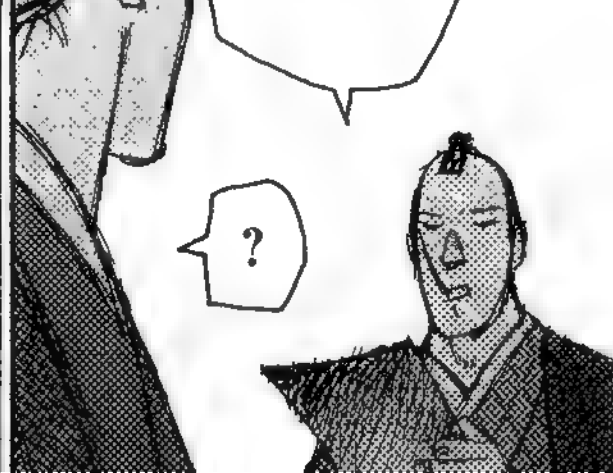
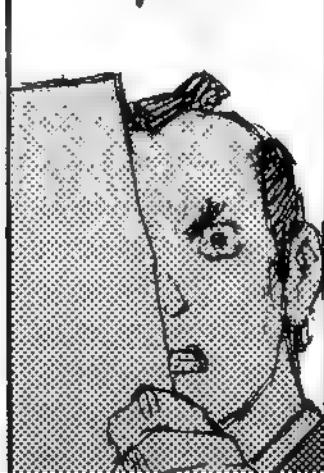
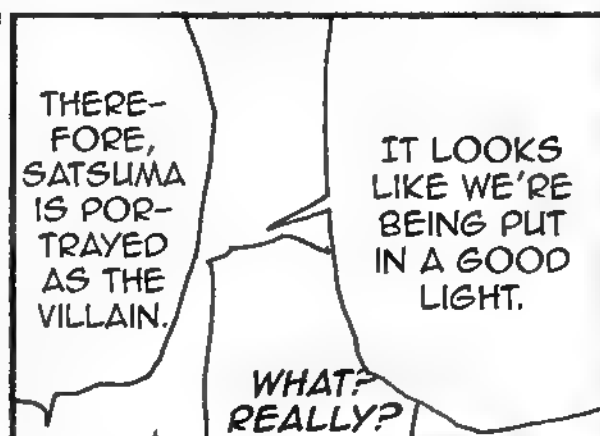
IT WAS AN  
URGENT  
SITUATION  
AND WE HAD  
NO WAY TO  
CONTACT YOU,  
SO WE TOOK  
ACTION BY  
OURSELVES.

WHILE WE  
THOUGHT  
OF IN-  
FORMING  
THE SQUAD  
LEADER,





SFX: Crinkle, flap







CHIYO-  
MATSU'S  
SACRI-  
FICE...

ALTHOUGH  
I DON'T  
FIND IT  
VERY COM-  
FORTING  
REGARD-  
ING



IT'S JUST  
WRITTEN  
FUNNY TO  
MAKE IT  
STAND  
OUT.

**POO  
SQUAD...**



WH-WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS WITH  
WORLD  
REFORM-  
ING POO  
SQUAD?

SFX:  
Stand



**YES  
SIR!**

**HURRY UP  
AND GET  
IN LINE!**

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
DOING?



WAS  
BECAUSE  
WE UNDER-  
ESTIMATED  
THE ABILI-  
TIES OF  
SATSUMA.

HOW-  
EVER, THE  
REASON  
WE LOST A  
WARRIOR...

WHY THE  
POO  
SQUAD?



**ABOUT THIS  
MATTER.**

**AFTER  
CONSIDERING  
THE SITUATION,  
I WON'T ASK  
ANY MORE  
QUESTIONS**


SFX:  
Mumbling



**NO ONE  
WILL BE  
ALLOWED  
TO GO  
OUT!**

**THEREFORE,  
FROM TODAY  
UNTIL THE  
FORESEEABLE  
FUTURE,**

**UNDER-  
STOOD!?**




**UNTIL THEN,  
YOU ARE TO  
WHOLEHEART-  
EDLY FOCUS  
ON YOUR  
TRAINING.**

**HOWEVER,  
WE WILL  
COMMENCE  
OUR NEXT  
ATTACK  
SOON.**



**WHAT  
...?**

**THAT ALSO  
MEANS NO  
MORE NIGHT  
VISITS TO THE  
BROTHEL.**



**WE DO NOT  
HAVE ANY TIME  
TO WASTE!**

SFX:  
Chirp





**WHY  
CAN'T WE  
GO TO THE  
BROTHEL!?**

**GIVE ME  
A BREAK!**



SFX:  
Clack

SFX:  
Clatter



**YEAH,  
ONLY  
AN IDIOT  
WOULD PUT  
THEIR LIFE  
ON THE  
LINE TO  
GO VISIT A  
BROTHEL.**

**YOU'LL  
END UP  
BEING  
CAUGHT  
JUST LIKE  
CHIYO-  
MATSU.**

**FUCK!**

**IT  
CAN'T BE  
HELPED,  
YONE-  
KICHI.**

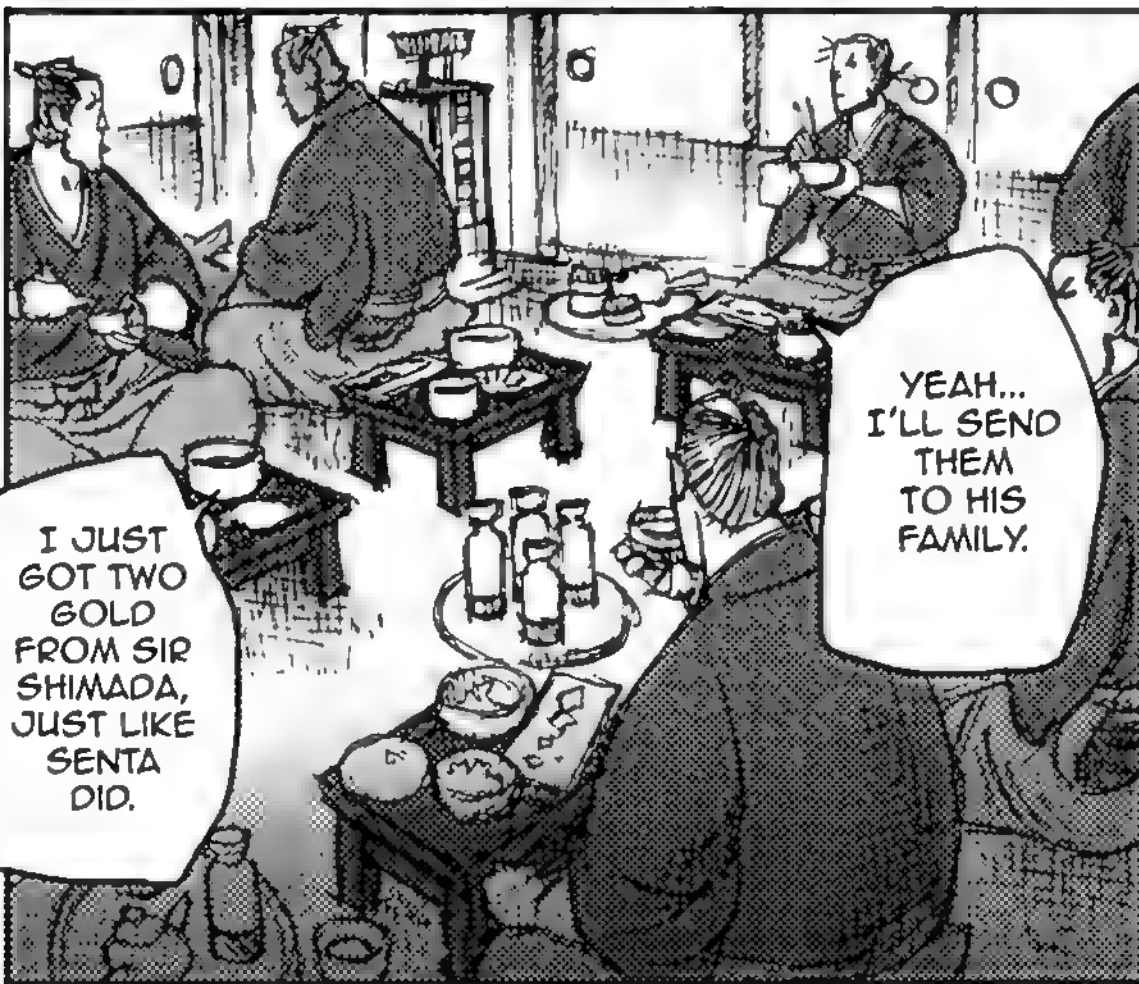
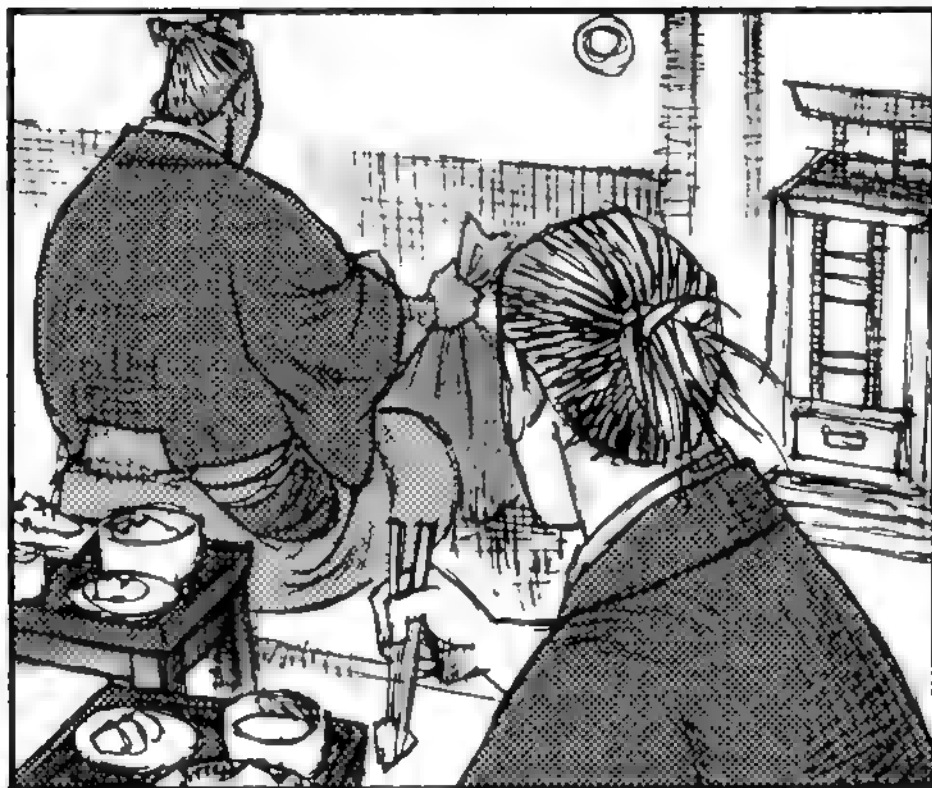


**I MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO HOLD  
ON, BUT MY  
ROWDY BUDDY  
IN MY CROTCH  
WON'T BE  
ABLE TO!**

**HEHEHE,  
LOOKS LIKE  
YOU'LL HAVE  
TO MAKE DO  
WITH JERKING  
OFF.**

**SHIT...  
NOW I CAN'T  
GET MY DICK  
IN SOME  
PUSSY!**



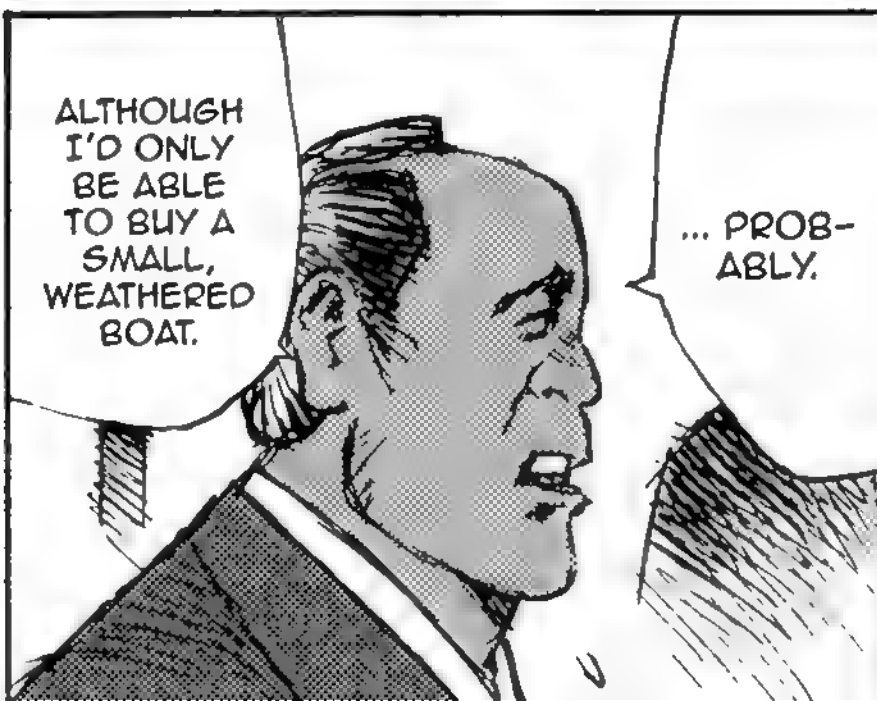


I JUST GOT TWO GOLD FROM SIR SHIMADA, JUST LIKE SENTA DID.

YEAH... I'LL SEND THEM TO HIS FAMILY.

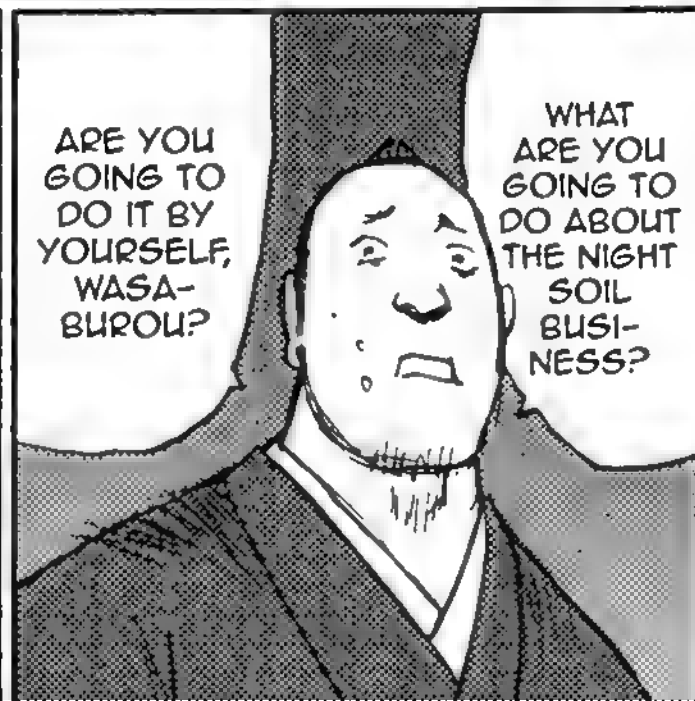


ARE THOSE CHIYO-MATSU'S BELONGINGS, WASA-BUROU?



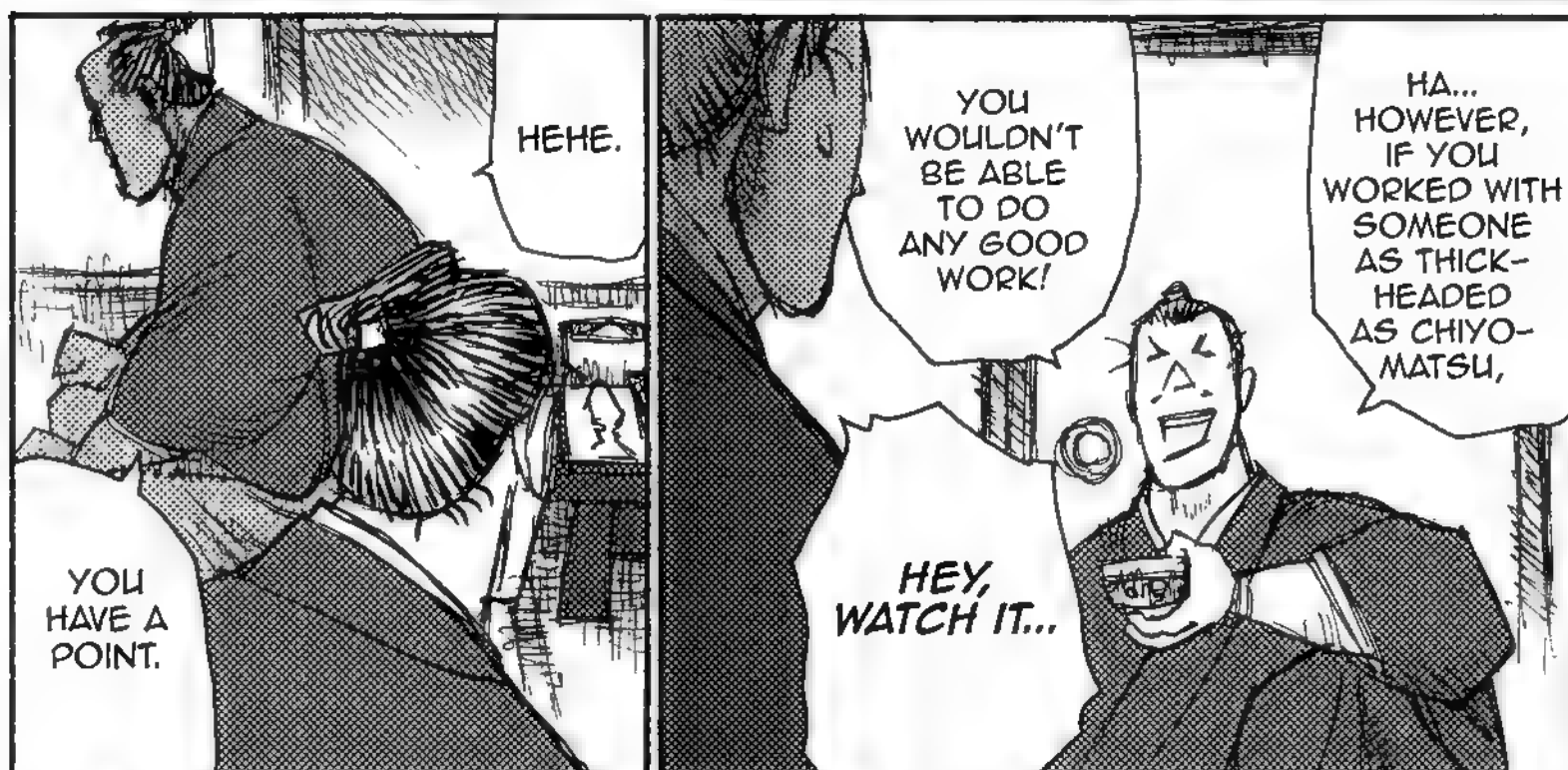
ALTHOUGH I'D ONLY BE ABLE TO BUY A SMALL, WEATHERED BOAT.

... PROBABLY.

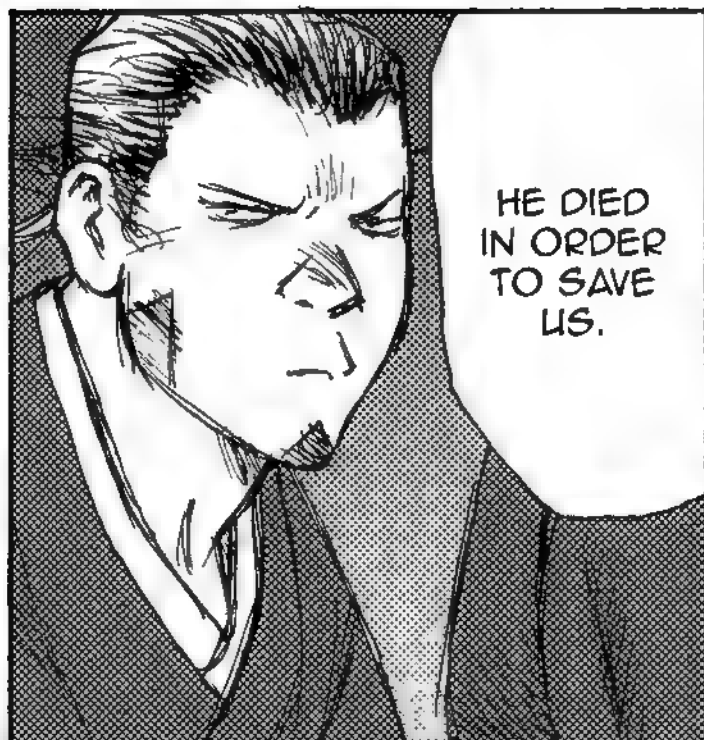


ARE YOU GOING TO DO IT BY YOURSELF, WASA-BUROU?

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE NIGHT SOIL BUSINESS?





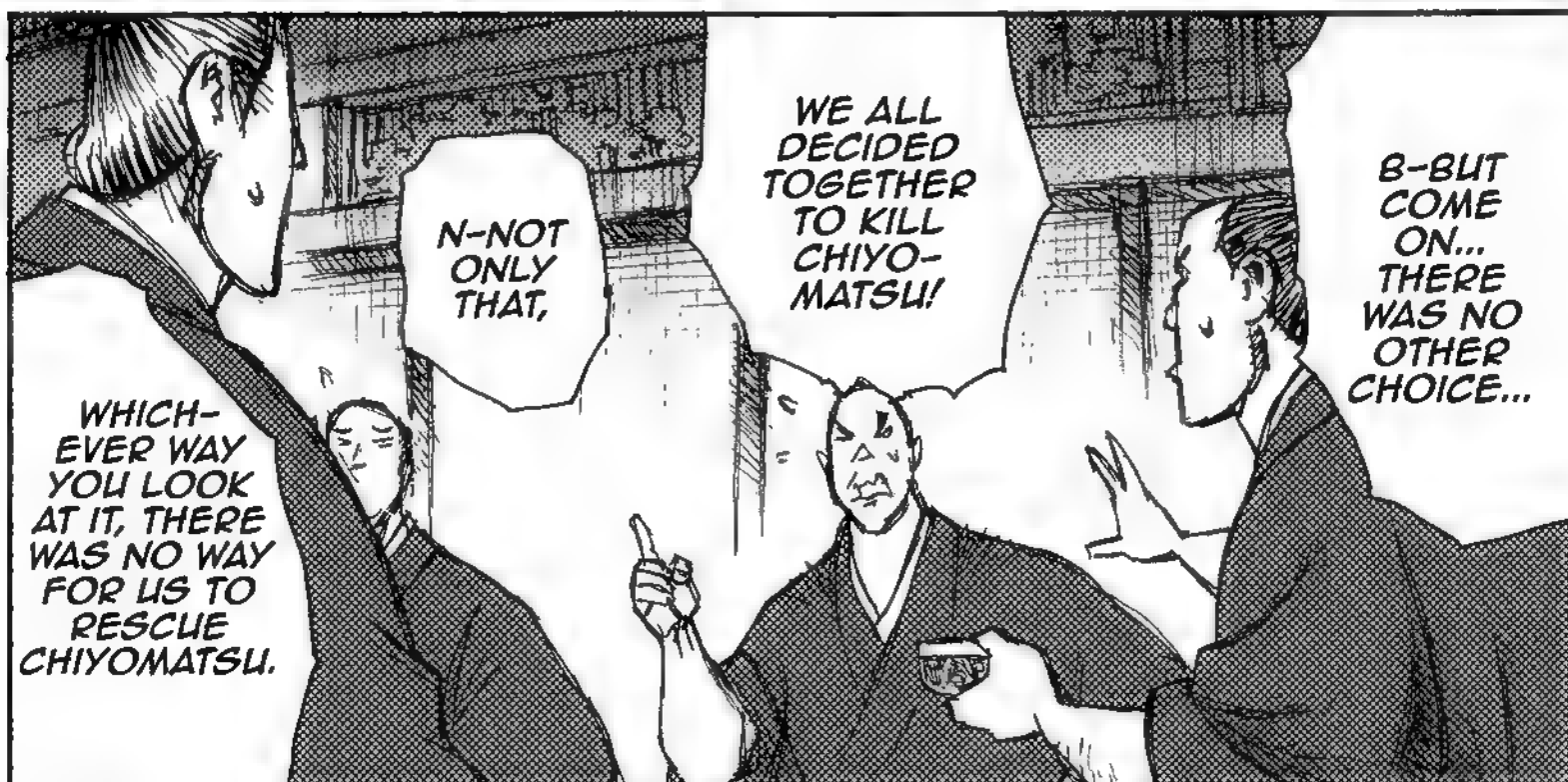


HE DIED  
IN ORDER  
TO SAVE  
US.



HE  
COM-  
PLETELY  
MISREAD  
US.

NOT  
KNOWING  
THAT EVERY-  
ONE WAS  
THERE TO  
KILL HIM,



N-NOT  
ONLY  
THAT,

WE ALL  
DECIDED  
TOGETHER  
TO KILL  
CHIYO-  
MATSU!

B-BUT  
COME  
ON...  
THERE  
WAS NO  
OTHER  
CHOICE...

WHICH-  
EVER WAY  
YOU LOOK  
AT IT, THERE  
WAS NO WAY  
FOR US TO  
RESCUE  
CHIYOMATSU.



ALL WE  
DID WAS  
DO WHAT  
HE TOLD  
US TO  
DO!

WHAT ARE  
YOU TRYING  
TO DO, BAD-  
MOUTHING  
USHI-BRO!?



HEAR,  
HEAR!

BESIDES,  
THE ONE  
WHO FIRST  
SUGGESTED  
IT WAS  
USHI-  
GOROU!





THE  
ONLY  
SAMURAI  
HERE.

IN THE  
END,  
CHIYO-  
MATSU  
WAS



SOME-  
ONE,  
PLEASE  
TELL ME.

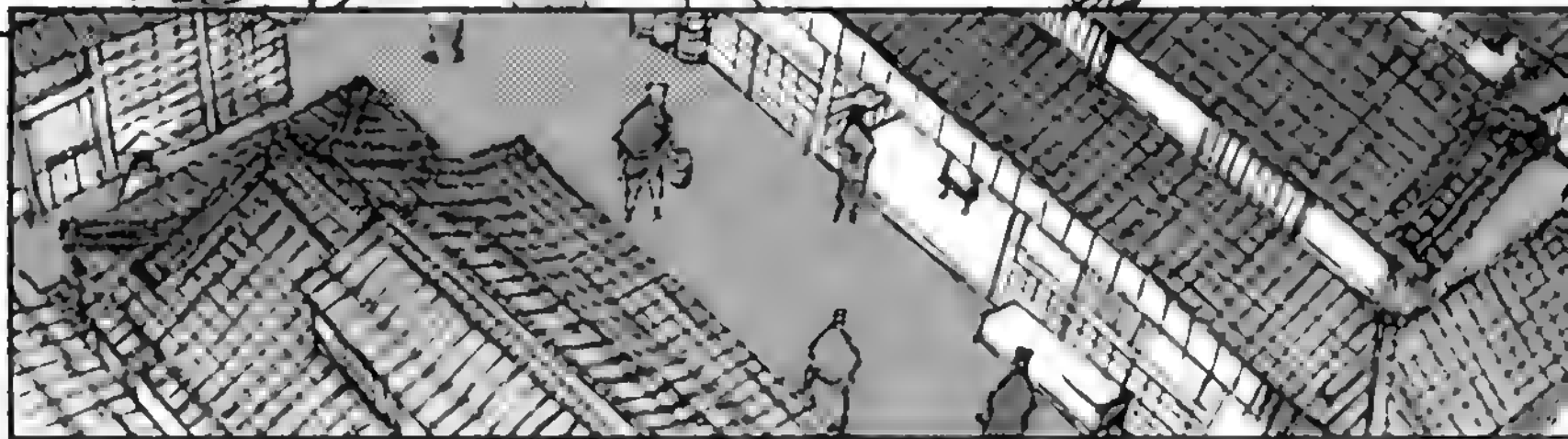


AM I  
HEADING  
IN THE  
RIGHT DI-  
RECTION?



WHAT DID  
I WANT TO  
BECOME?

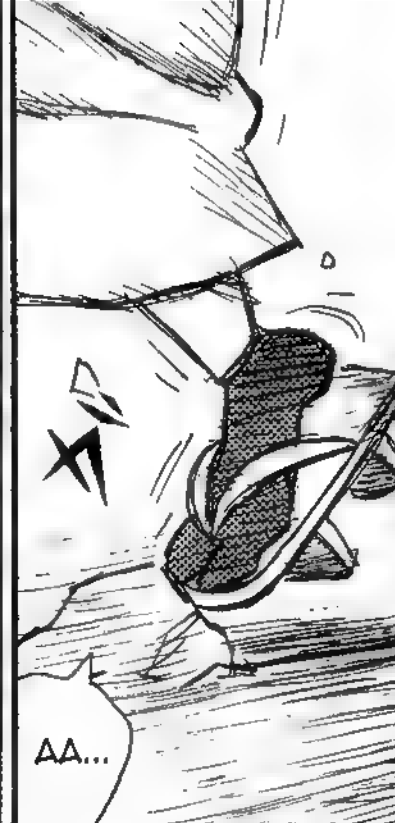
WHAT ON  
EARTH DID  
I WANT  
TO DO?



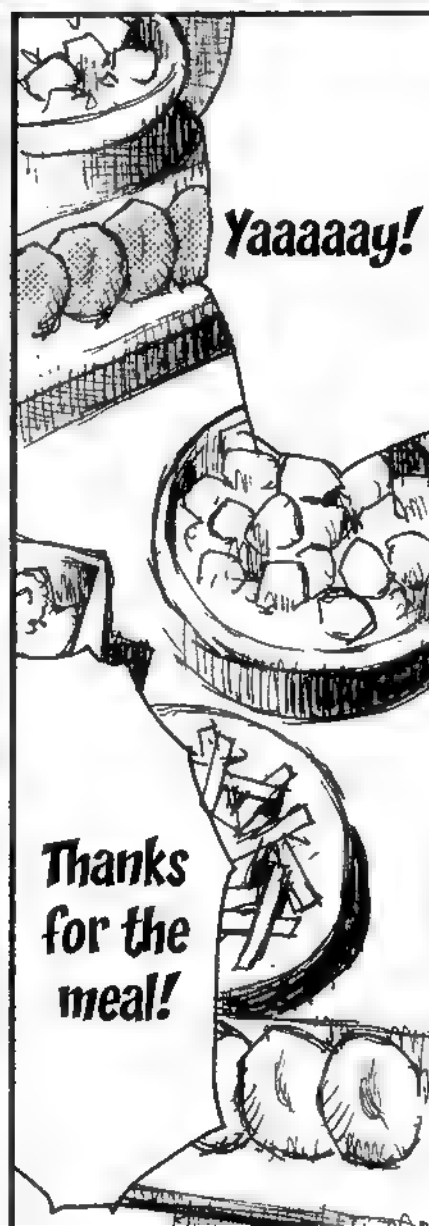
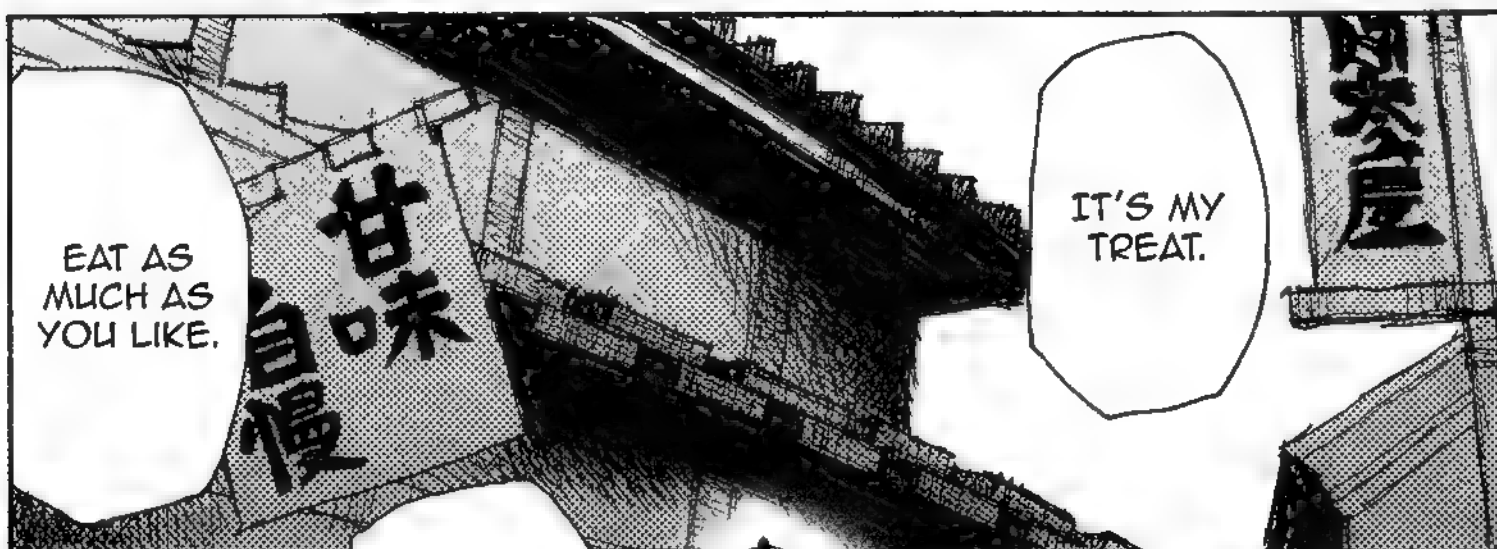




SFX:  
BAM  
BAM  
BAM,  
Flip



SFX:  
Trip





DID YOU  
BRING  
WHAT I  
ASKED?

BY  
THE WAY,  
HIRONO-  
SHIN.



So  
goo-  
ood!



Mmm  
mmm!

IF  
THERE'S  
NOT  
ENOUGH,  
THEN YOU  
CAN  
ORDER  
SOME  
MORE.

SFX:  
Push



HOLD UP,  
HIRONO-  
SHIN-KUN!  
YOU'RE  
TOO CLOSE  
TO SIR  
IMUTA!

HERE  
YOU ARE,  
PLEASE  
HAVE A  
LOOK!

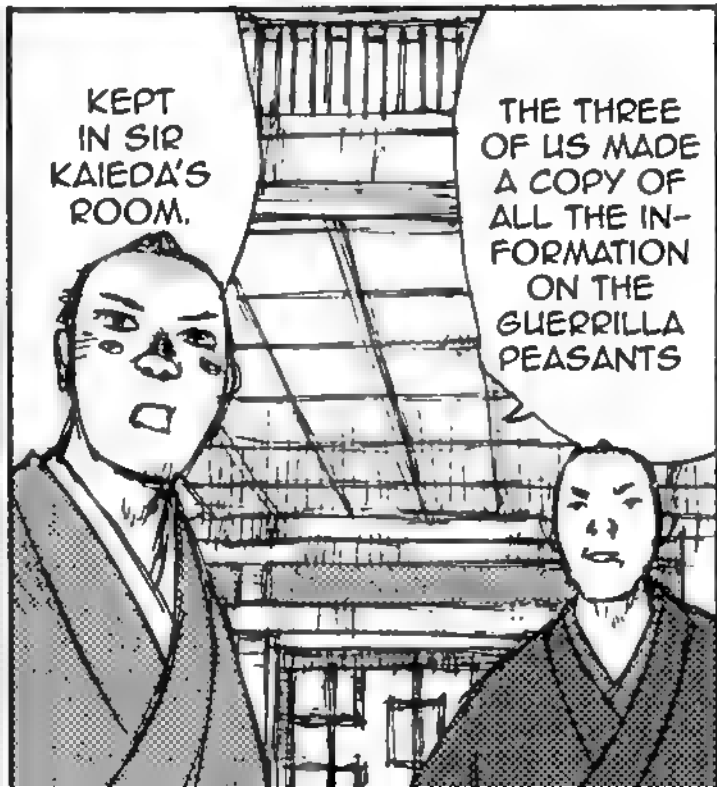


SIR  
IMUTA!

YES,



KEPT  
IN SIR  
KAIEDA'S  
ROOM.



THE THREE  
OF US MADE  
A COPY OF  
ALL THE IN-  
FORMATION  
ON THE  
GUERRILLA  
PEASANTS



THE  
PEASANT  
WHO KILLED  
MAENO-  
SUKE-KUN,  
ISN'T HE?

HE  
IS...



SO, HE  
COMES  
FROM  
EAST  
ICHINOE  
VILLAGE...

USHI-  
GOROU...



I HAVE TO  
TEACH HIM  
THAT NO  
MATTER HOW  
FAR HE RUNS  
AWAY, HE WILL  
EVENTUALLY  
HAVE TO PAY  
HIS DEBT.

THAT BOY  
IS RUNNING  
FOR DEAR  
LIFE TO  
GET AWAY  
FROM ME.



AS MAENO-  
SUKE-KUN  
WAS OUR DEAR  
FRIEND, THIS IS  
A MATTER THAT  
DOESN'T ONLY  
CONCERN YOU,  
SIR IMUTA!

IF YOU ARE  
SEEKING TO  
ATTACK THAT  
VILLAGE,  
PLEASE LET  
US ACCOM-  
PANY YOU!



IF I  
DO THAT,  
HE WILL,  
WITHOUT  
DOUBT,  
REVEAL  
HIMSELF  
TO ME.



SFX:  
Stand

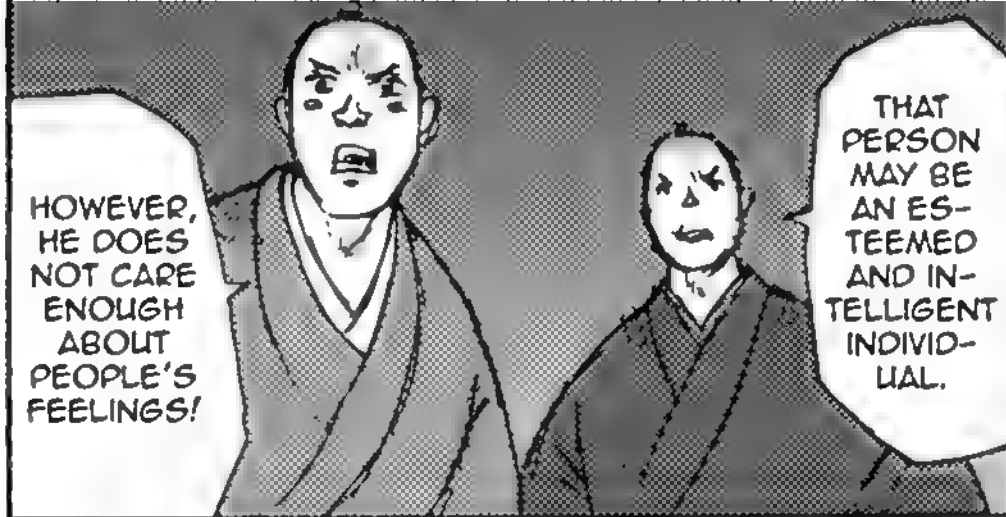


SFX:  
GRAB



SFX:  
Tightening





HOWEVER,  
HE DOES  
NOT CARE  
ENOUGH  
ABOUT  
PEOPLE'S  
FEELINGS!

THAT  
PERSON  
MAY BE  
AN ES-  
TEEMED  
AND IN-  
TELLIGENT  
INDIVID-  
UAL.



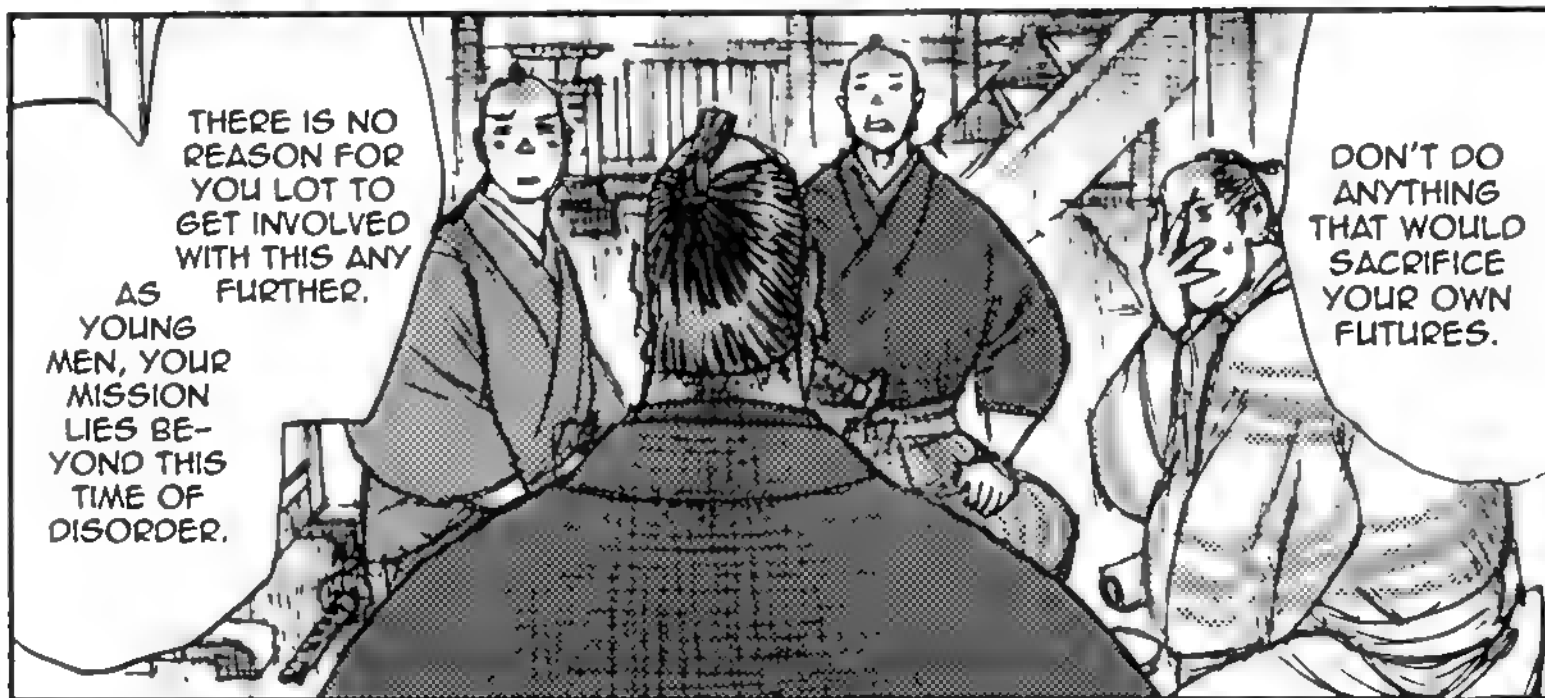
HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN  
THAT SAGARA  
HAS STRICT  
RULES ABOUT  
PERSONAL  
CONFLICTS?

SFX:  
Tightening



I BELIEVE  
THAT NOW  
IS NOT THE  
TIME FOR  
YOU BOYS.

THAT'S  
NOT  
TRUE.



THERE IS NO  
REASON FOR  
YOU LOT TO  
GET INVOLVED  
WITH THIS ANY  
FURTHER.

AS  
YOUNG  
MEN, YOUR  
MISSION  
LIES BE-  
YOND THIS  
TIME OF  
DISORDER.

DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
THAT WOULD  
SACRIFICE  
YOUR OWN  
FUTURES.



UNLIKE YOU  
THREE, I'M  
ALREADY  
DAMAGED  
GOODS.

HMM...



WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?

S-SIR  
IMUTA...

\*Author's note The interpreter for Townsend Harris, the first American Consul General to Japan. He died after being attacked by a group led by Imuta, who opposed the foreigners

THE ONLY REASON THE TOP BRASS HAS CALLED ME BACK IS TO USE ME UNTIL I'M NO LONGER USEFUL.

AFTER THE HELISKEN EVENT, I'M ESSENTIALLY AN EXILED MAN.

HURRY UP AND REFILL THE TEA!

HEY, CAN'T YOU

HOW COULD AN ES-TEEMED MAN SUCH AS SIR IMUTA...

SFX: Jerk

I CANNOT HELP CONTINUE THIS ERA.

THIS IS MY FATE.

NO...

RIGHT AWAY.

Y-YES.

SFX: Clatter, Shatter

LOOK AT THIS.

SFX: Clatter





ONCE YOU  
CAN'T PUT  
IT BACK  
IN TO THE  
SCABBARD,  
YOU JUST  
THROW IT  
AWAY.

IF YOU CUT  
AS MUCH AS  
YOU CAN CUT,  
THE BLADE  
WILL CHIP  
AND BEND.



FAR FROM  
ANY MALICE,  
I'M NOT  
INTERESTED  
IN THOSE  
GUYS!

I PRETTY  
MUCH DON'T  
KNOW ANY  
OF THEIR  
NAMES.



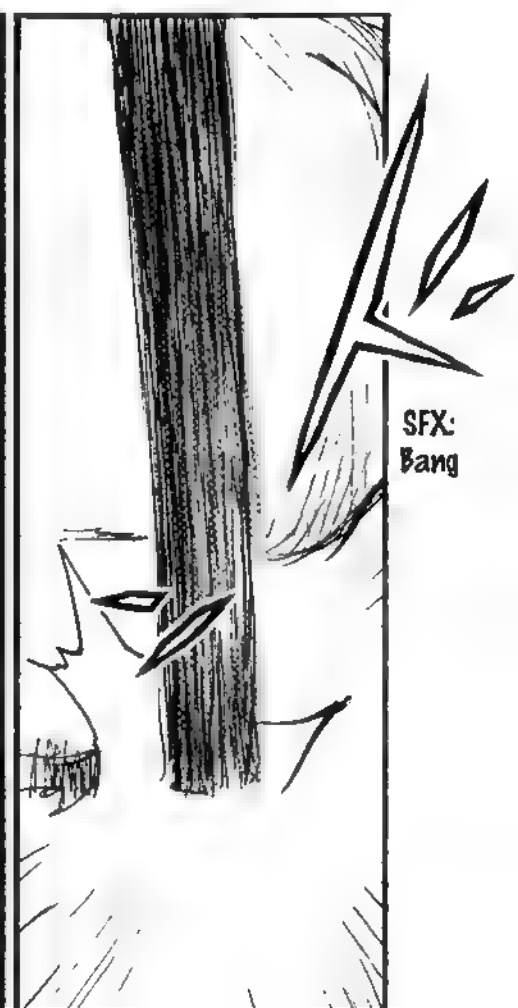
SO MANY  
PEOPLE!

I'LL TELL  
YOU NOW  
THAT I HAVE  
KILLED  
COUNTLESS  
PEOPLE.


SFX:  
Spin



NOW,  
LITTLE BY  
LITTLE, I CAN  
NO LONGER  
FIT BACK  
INTO MY  
SCABBARD.



SFX:  
Bang



THERE  
WOULDN'T  
BE ANY  
CONSE-  
QUENCES.

IF THE  
SWORD  
ITSELF WERE,  
AT LAST,  
TO *CHOOSE*  
ITS LAST  
OPPONENT,



AM I  
WRONG?



SIR  
IMUTA...





I WILL NEVER FORGET WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.

THIS COPY... I WILL READ THROUGH IT VERY CLOSELY.



I MUST THANK THE HEAVENS THAT I WAS ALLOWED TO SEE YOUR FACES ONE LAST TIME.

I DARE SAY THIS WILL BE OUR LAST PARTING IN THIS LIFE.



IT'S ONLY NATURAL I DO THIS ALONE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.



WE CANNOT POSSIBLY SAY ANYTHING IN THE FACE OF SUCH DETERMINATION.



WHILE IT IS REGRET-TABLE...





I WILL  
BE ALL  
ALONE  
ON THIS  
PATH.

JUST AS  
KAIEDA  
SAID.



THIS IS  
ALSO  
A PART  
OF MY  
NATURE...

NO  
MATTER.



**FAREWELL!**

SFX:  
March  
Step

**THIS IS  
GREAT!**

**HAHA  
HAHA!**

ARE A  
PRETTY  
SMART  
BUNCH!

THE  
WORLD  
REFORM-  
ING POO  
SQUAD

SFX:  
Pant,  
pant

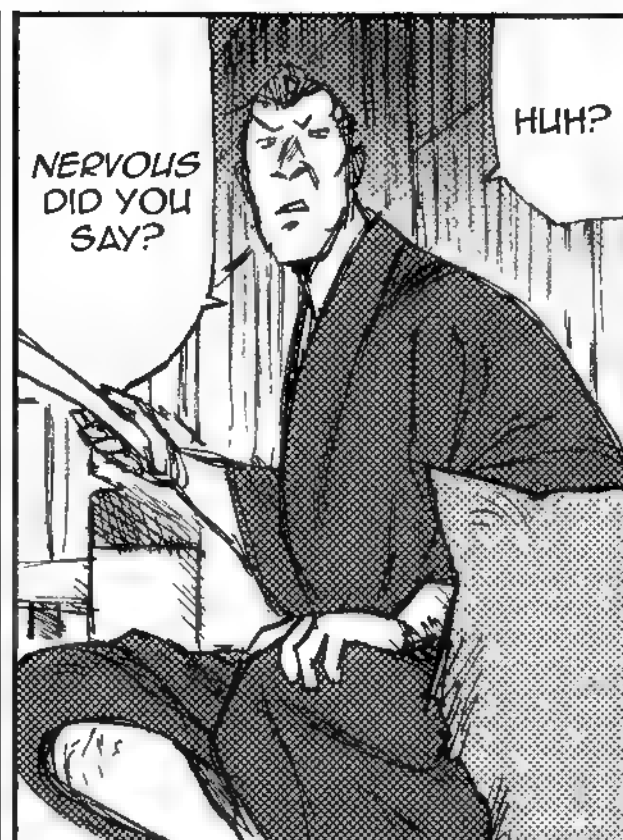
REGARDLESS  
OF FRIEND  
OR FOE, THE  
CITIZENS OF  
JAPAN TEND  
TO FEEL A  
LITTLE  
NERVOUS.

IT IS  
EXACTLY AS  
YOU SAY MY  
LORD... IT IS  
IMPORTANT  
TO HAVE A  
SENSE OF  
PLAYFUL-  
NESS AT  
ALL TIMES.

THEY LACK  
HUMOR,  
NO HUMOR  
AT ALL!

THE  
SOLDIERS  
IN THIS  
COUNTY...

TL/N -  
"Nervous"  
is said in  
English -  
na-basu.



Author's Note: Shoukai-shou was bitten in the groin by a dog at a young age, and has disliked them since.

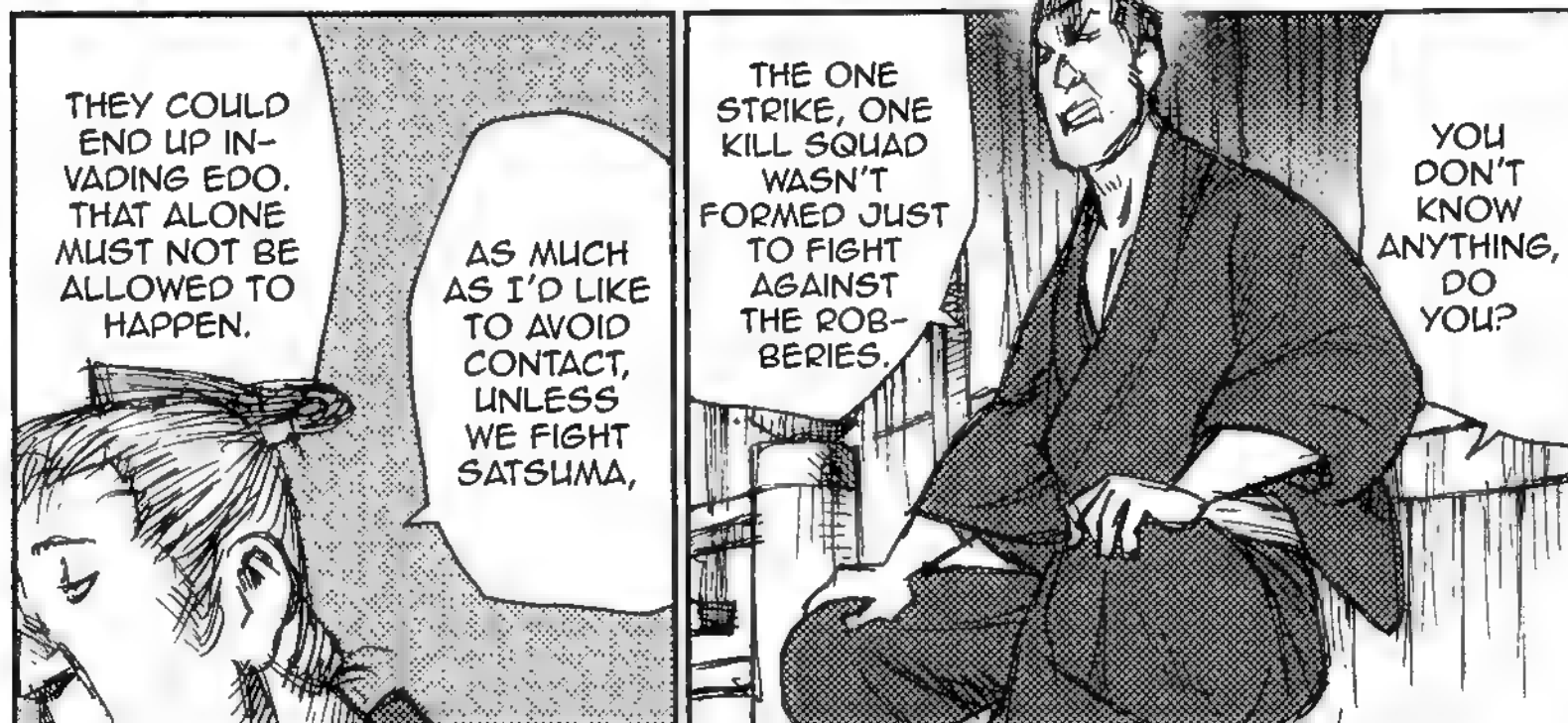




TO SEE  
MY BUSY  
LORD USE  
SO MUCH OF  
HIS TIME ON  
SUCH TRIVIAL  
MATTERS  
PAINS ME  
GREATLY.

I  
SUGGEST  
THAT WE  
LET THE  
SQUAD OF  
PEASANTS  
BE DIS-  
SOLVED  
NOW.

SO, WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?



THEY COULD  
END UP IN-  
VADING EDO.  
THAT ALONE  
MUST NOT BE  
ALLOWED TO  
HAPPEN.

AS MUCH  
AS I'D LIKE  
TO AVOID  
CONTACT,  
UNLESS  
WE FIGHT  
SATSUMA,

THE ONE  
STRIKE, ONE  
KILL SQUAD  
WASN'T  
FORMED JUST  
TO FIGHT  
AGAINST  
THE ROB-  
BERIES.

YOU  
DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING,  
DO  
YOU?



BUT UNFOR-  
TUNATELY, WE  
DON'T HAVE A  
GOOD ENOUGH  
TRUMP CARD!

SO, IN  
DESPERATION,  
I CAME UP  
WITH USING  
GUERRILLA  
TACTICS!

I WONDERED  
IF WE COULD  
SEE SAIGOU  
RIGHT AWAY  
AND PER-  
SUADE HIM  
TO PREVENT  
THAT FROM  
HAPPENING.



EVERYONE  
WILL SET THE  
STREETS OF  
EDO ON FIRE  
AND BURN  
EVERYTHING.

IT'LL  
PRETTY  
MUCH BE  
SCORCHED  
EARTH  
TACTICS!

IT WON'T  
JUST BE THE  
REGULAR  
ARMY. THE  
PEASANTS  
AND THE  
TOWN FOLK  
WILL TAKE UP  
BAMBOO  
SPEARS AND  
STICKS.



WE HAVE  
TO GET  
THEM TO  
THINK THAT  
I'LL DO IT,  
OR THAT  
I'VE GONE  
INSANE.

THE THING  
IS, JUST  
SAYING IT  
TO THEM  
DOESN'T  
GET THEIR  
ATTENTION.



I KNOW  
RIIIGHT?

I DO  
BELIEVE  
SATSUMA  
WILL WITH-  
DRAW IF  
IT WENT  
THAT FAR.



SAIGOU  
WILL GUESS  
THAT THE ONE  
STRIKE, ONE  
KILL SQUAD  
IS ONE STEP  
TOWARDS  
THE USE OF  
SCORCHED  
EARTH  
TACTICS.

THE  
RESULTS  
OF THE  
GUERRILLA  
FORCE  
SHOULD HAVE  
REACHED  
SAIGOU  
THROUGH  
SAGARA.



**SHUT  
UP!**

IF YOU ARE  
TALKING TO  
A DOG YOU  
WOULD CER-  
TAINLY BE  
SEEN AS  
INSANE.

SFX:  
Lick,  
lick





LOOK  
AT THE  
SHINSEN-  
GUMI.

EVEN  
THOUGH  
THEY'RE AL-  
WAYS ASKING  
FOR MONEY,  
IF WE DO ANY-  
THING STUPID  
THEY'LL QUITE  
HAPPILY BARE  
THEIR TEETH  
AT US.

HAVEN'T  
I ALWAYS  
SAID THAT A  
PET DOG  
THAT GETS  
TOO BIG IS  
HARD TO  
HANDLE?

WOULD  
IT NOT BE  
BETTER TO  
INCREASE  
THE ONE  
STRIKE, ONE  
KILL SQUAD'S  
NUMBERS  
INSTEAD OF  
DISSOLVING  
THEM?

IF  
THAT'S  
THE  
CASE,



NOW... I  
BELIEVE THE  
PEASANTS  
WILL LEAVE  
AFTER ONE  
MORE JOB.

I AM  
CONSID-  
ERING  
IT, MY  
LORD.

I HAVE  
BEEN  
WORKING  
FOR THAT  
REASON.



UNTIL HE GETS  
REPLACEMENT  
WARRIORS, HE  
WILL PRIORITIZE  
THE PRESERVA-  
TION OF THE  
SQUAD'S  
STRENGTH.

HOWEVER,  
WHILE SQUAD  
CAPTAIN  
SHIMADA IS  
CURRENTLY  
PREPARING  
THE SQUAD  
FOR A  
SURPRISE  
ASSAULT,

WELL,

THAT'S  
ABOUT  
RIGHT.



I USED  
TO THINK  
THAT THE  
SHINSEN-  
GUMI WAS  
FULL OF  
FRONT-ON  
ATTACK  
IDIOTS...

SHIMADA  
SEEMS  
LIKE A  
SENSIBLE  
MAN.





EVEN IF  
IT'S TO  
PREVENT  
THE COL-  
LAPSE OF  
THE SQUAD,  
ANOTHER  
ASSAULT  
CANNOT  
BE PRE-  
VENTED.

IF THEY  
ARE  
PUSHED  
ONCE  
MORE...

AND  
SEEM TO  
BE GETTING  
MORE AND  
MORE FRUS-  
TRATED.

RIGHT NOW,  
HOWEVER,  
THE PEAS-  
ANTS ARE  
LOCKED UP  
IN THE  
ESTATE,

WE JUST  
NEED TO  
GIVE THEM  
THAT  
PUSH,

IN AN  
EASY TO  
UNDER-  
STAND  
WAY.

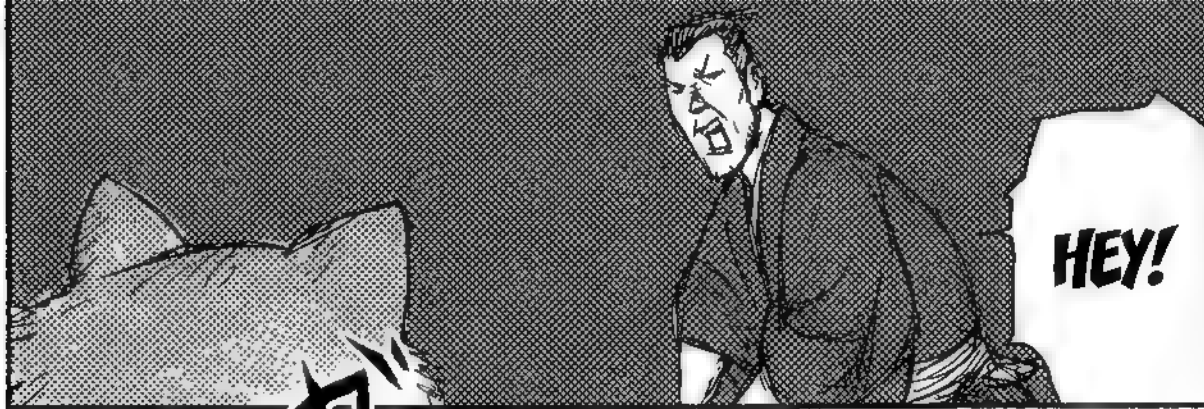
THERE-  
FORE...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
WANT  
ME TO  
DO?

AS I  
SEE  
FIT?  
WHAT?

IN  
ANY CASE,  
AFTER THIS  
I WILL EN-  
DEAVOR TO  
CARRY OUT  
MY LORD'S  
WISHES AS  
YOU SEE  
FIT...

AS THE  
PEASANTS  
WILL NOT  
CARE TO  
LISTEN ABOUT  
SERVING THE  
EMPEROR  
OR THE SHO-  
GUNATE,



SFX:  
Panting,  
Stand



SFX:  
Woof  
Woof  
Woof

CHAPTER 18 EAST ICHINOE VILLAGE







SO, THIS  
IS EAST  
ICHINOE  
VILLAGE...





THERE ARE  
ALWAYS  
PEOPLE WHO  
SAY IT'S NO  
CONCERN OF  
THEIRS AND  
LIVE OUT HERE  
IN TRAN-  
QUILITY.

EVEN WHEN  
THEY SAY  
THAT JAPAN  
IS IN THE  
MIDDLE  
OF LITTER  
TURMOIL,



SFX:  
Tweet  
tweet  
tweet



IT'S NO  
DIFFERENT  
THAN THE  
SCENE  
I ONCE  
SAW.

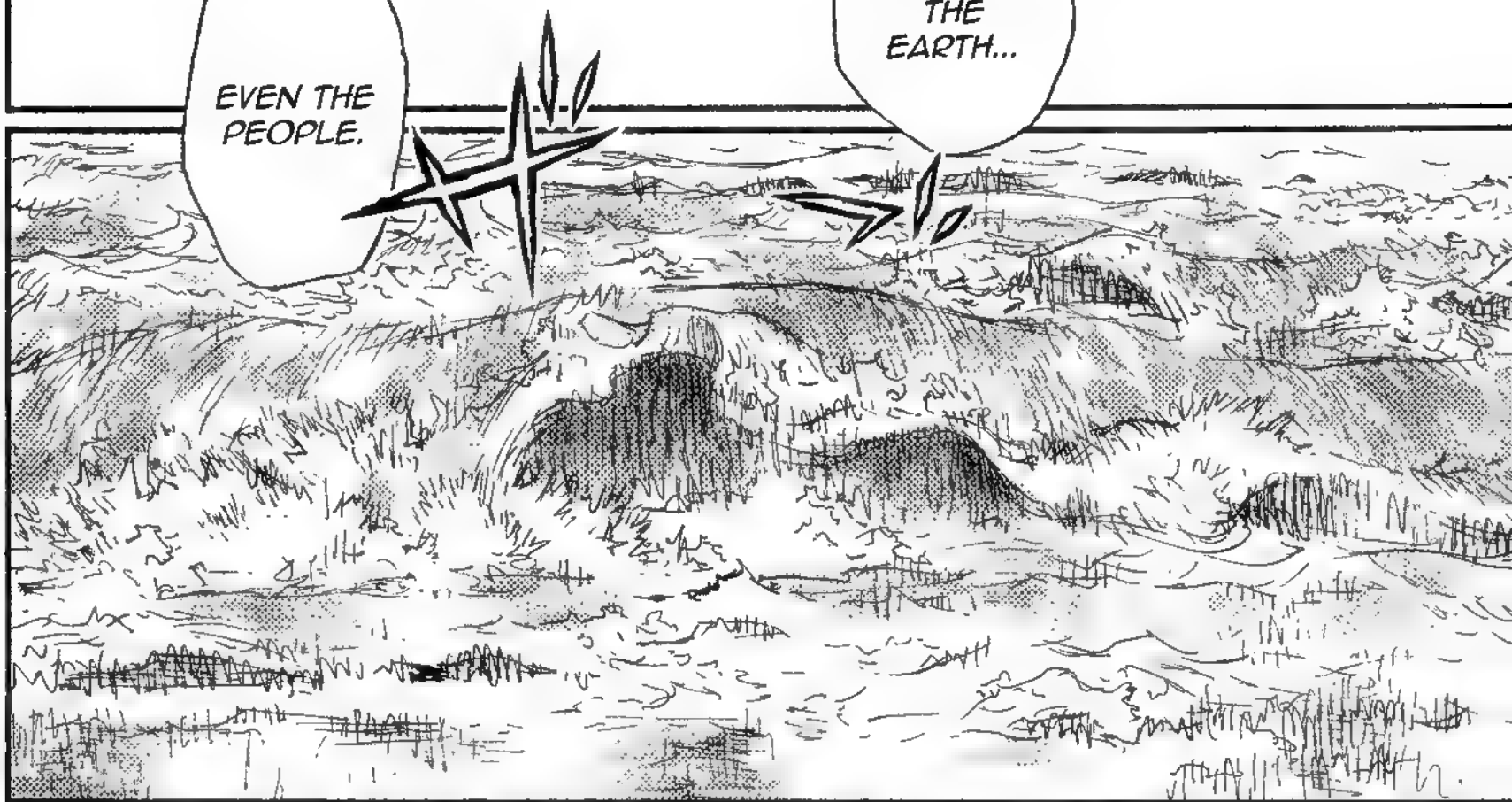
EVEN IF  
THEY'RE  
ON THE  
OUTSKIRTS  
OF EDO, THE  
COUNTRY  
SIDE IS ALL  
THE SAME.



EVEN THE  
PEOPLE.

THE  
TREES,  
THE  
ISLANDS,  
THE  
EARTH...

SFX:  
Splash!



SFX:  
Caw  
caw  
caw



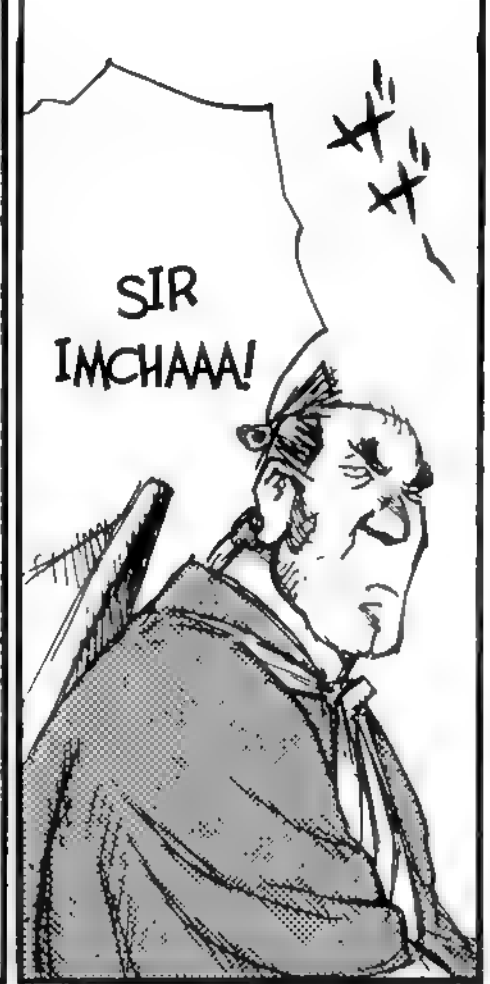




YOU  
KIDS ARE  
ALWAYS  
SO ENER-  
GETIC.

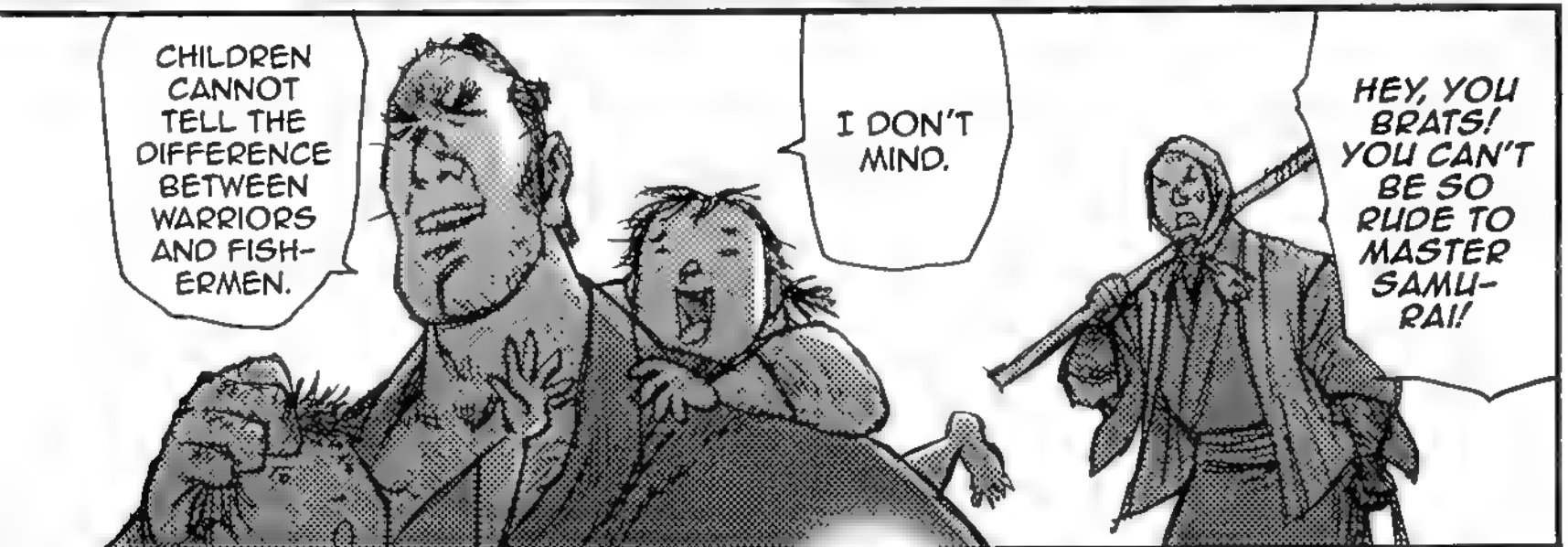
WANNA PLAY  
WITH SIR  
IMCHAAA!

SIR  
IMCHAAA!



SIR  
IMCHAAA!

SFX:  
Waves  
crashing



CHILDREN  
CANNOT  
TELL THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN  
WARRIORS  
AND FISH-  
ERMEN.

I DON'T  
MIND.

HEY, YOU  
BRATS!  
YOU CAN'T  
BE SO  
RUDE TO  
MASTER  
SAMU-  
RAI!



SIR  
IMUTA,

PLEASE  
ACCEPT  
THESE AS  
AN OF-  
FERING.

\*All the  
kids are  
writing  
sora  
"sky" in  
hiragana.

A CON-  
SIDERATE  
SAMURAI THAT  
DOES NOT  
DISCRIMINATE  
AGAINST  
ISLAND  
FISHERMAN  
CANNOT BE  
REAL.



I ASK YOU  
NOT TO  
TROUBLE  
YOURSELF  
FOR AN  
EXILE  
LIKE ME.



IT WOULD  
BE TROUBLE-  
SOME IF YOU  
MISUNDER-  
STAND ME...  
I'M ONLY  
WITH THE  
CHILDREN TO  
KILL SOME  
TIME.

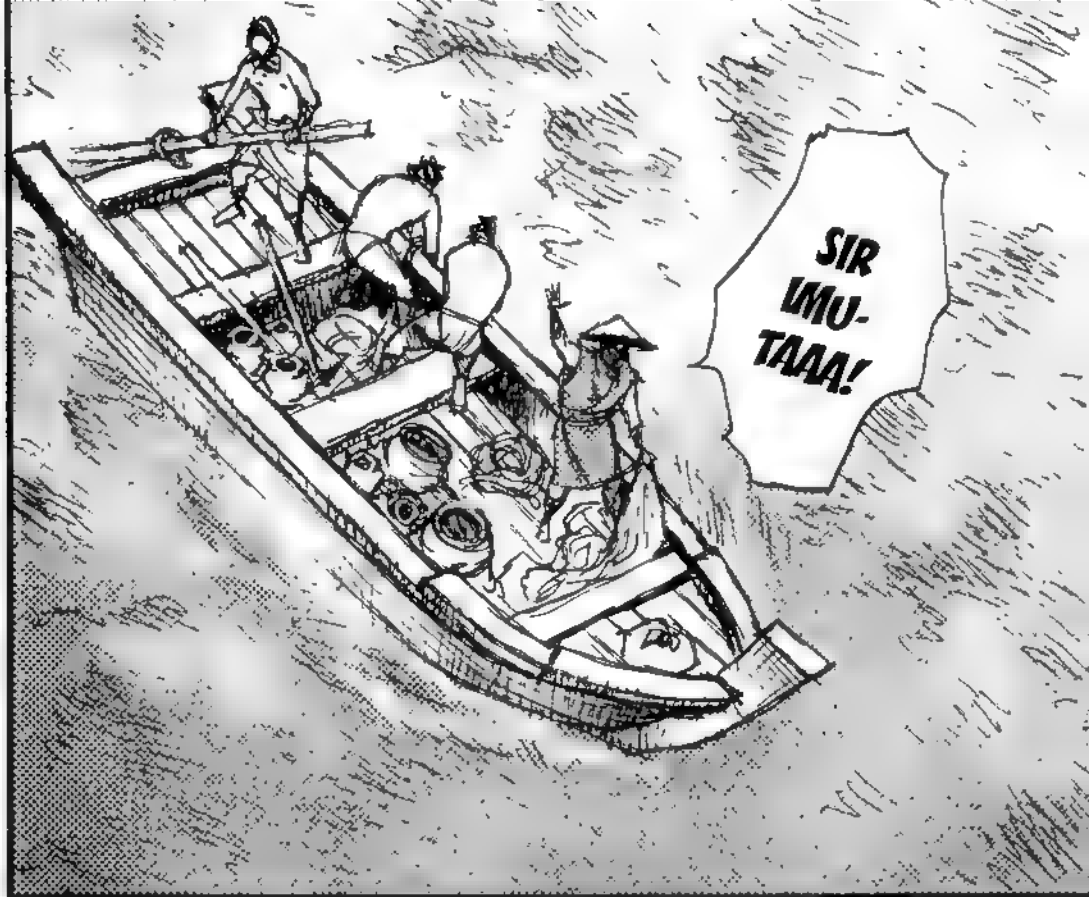


WE WILL BE  
UNABLE TO  
FORGIVE  
OURSELVES...

IF YOU  
DO NOT  
ACCEPT  
THIS FROM  
US,







SFX:  
Seagulls,  
WAVE



AFTER ALL,  
POLITICS  
TRAPS AND  
DECEIVES  
OTHERS.

LIVING  
WITH THE  
POOR AND  
RUSTIC  
FISHERMEN  
MIGHT BE  
BETTER.

THIS  
WAY OF  
LIFE MAY  
NOT BE  
BAD FOR  
SOMEONE  
LIKE  
MYSELF.



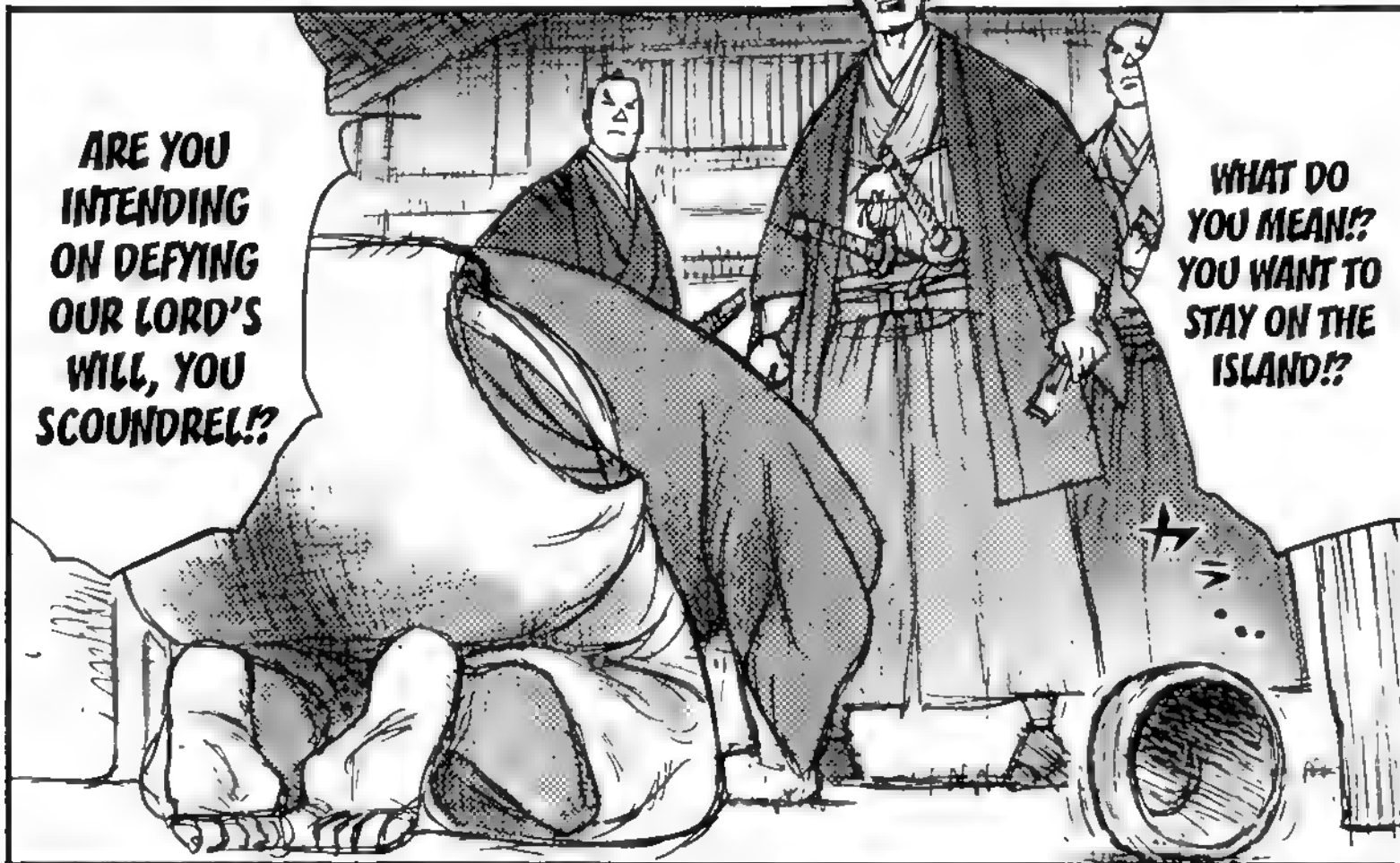


SFX:  
Clang



**ARE YOU  
INTENDING  
ON DEFYING  
OUR LORD'S  
WILL, YOU  
SCOUNDREL!?**

**WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN!?  
YOU WANT TO  
STAY ON THE  
ISLAND!?**



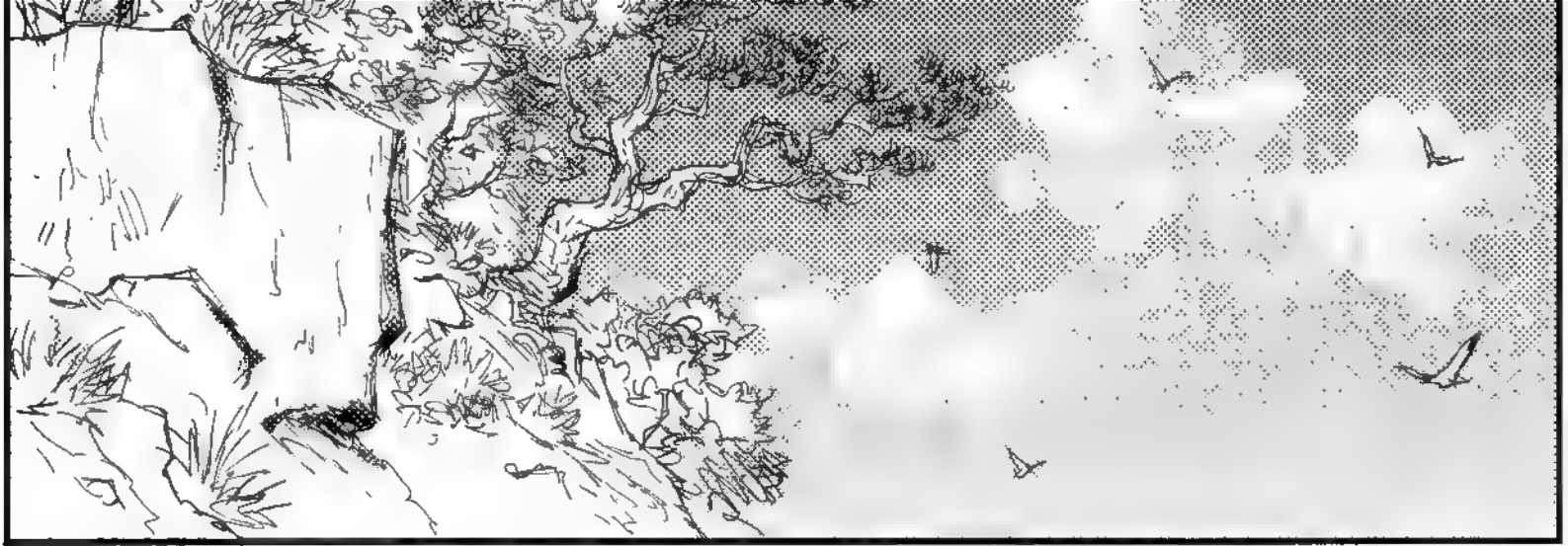
SFX:  
Clatter

**HURRY UP  
AND GET  
READY TO  
LEAVE!**

**IT WOULDN'T  
BE HARD TO  
THROW YOU  
AWAY WITH  
THE REST OF  
THE FILTHY  
FISHERMEN!**

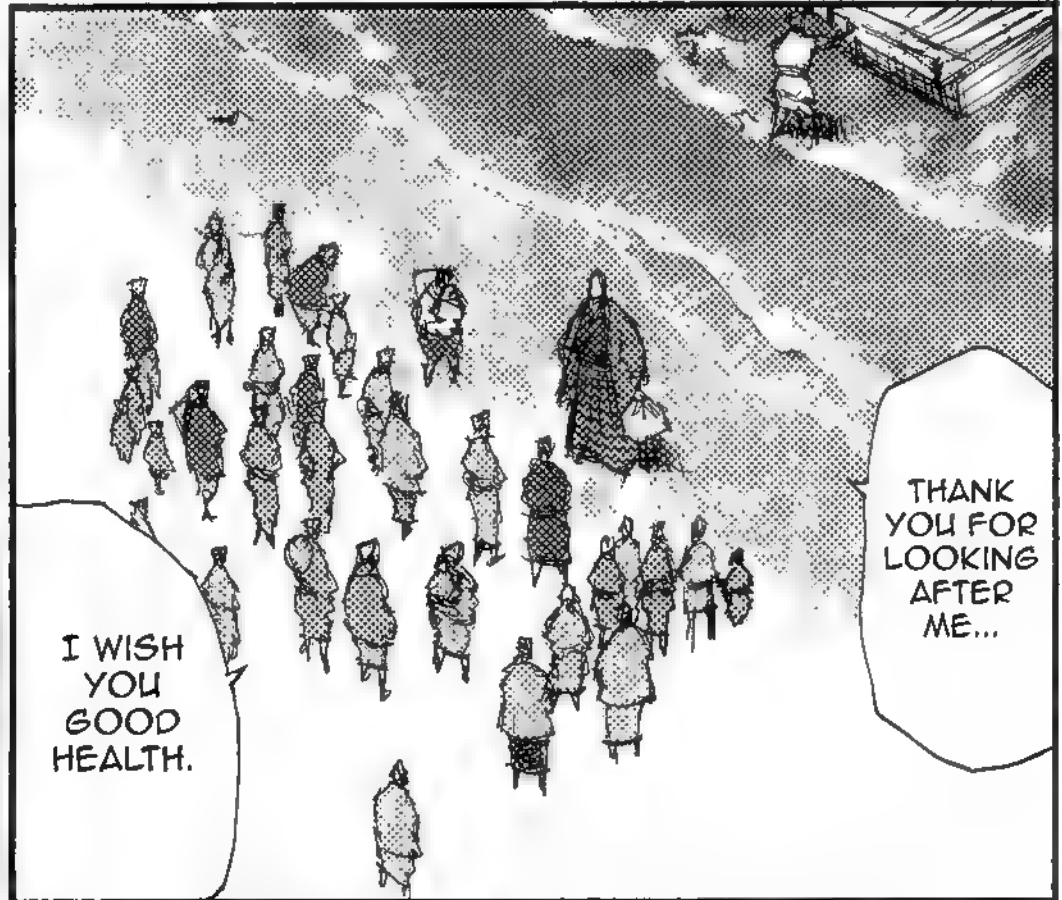
**IT SEEMS THAT  
YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
YOUR POSITION  
AS A LOW CLASS  
WARRIOR!**





DON'T  
GOOO!

SIR  
IMCHAAA!



I WISH  
YOU  
GOOD  
HEALTH.

THANK  
YOU FOR  
LOOKING  
AFTER  
ME...



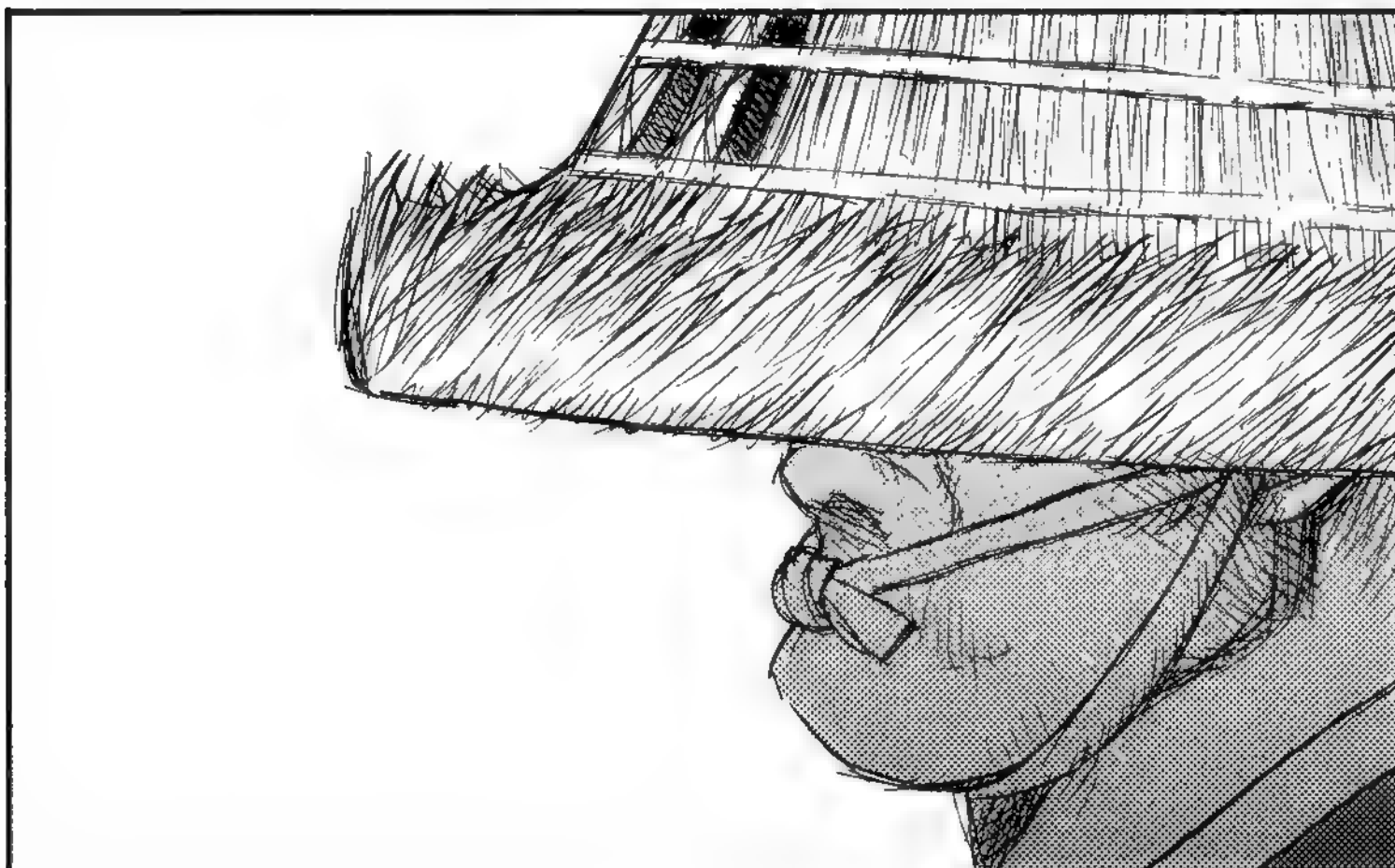
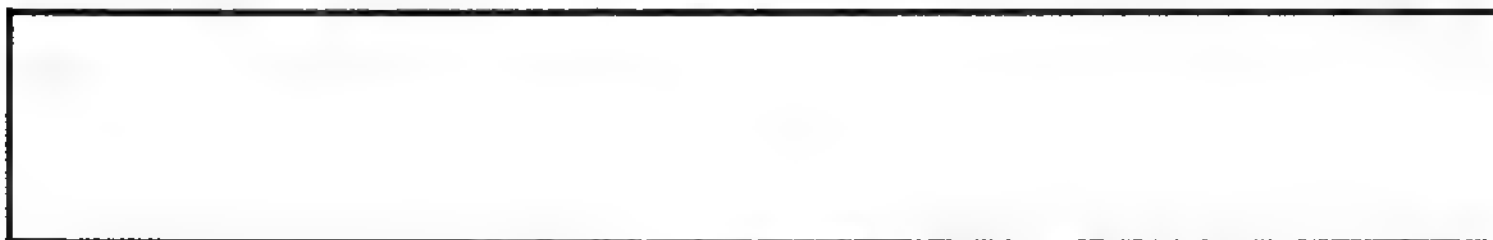
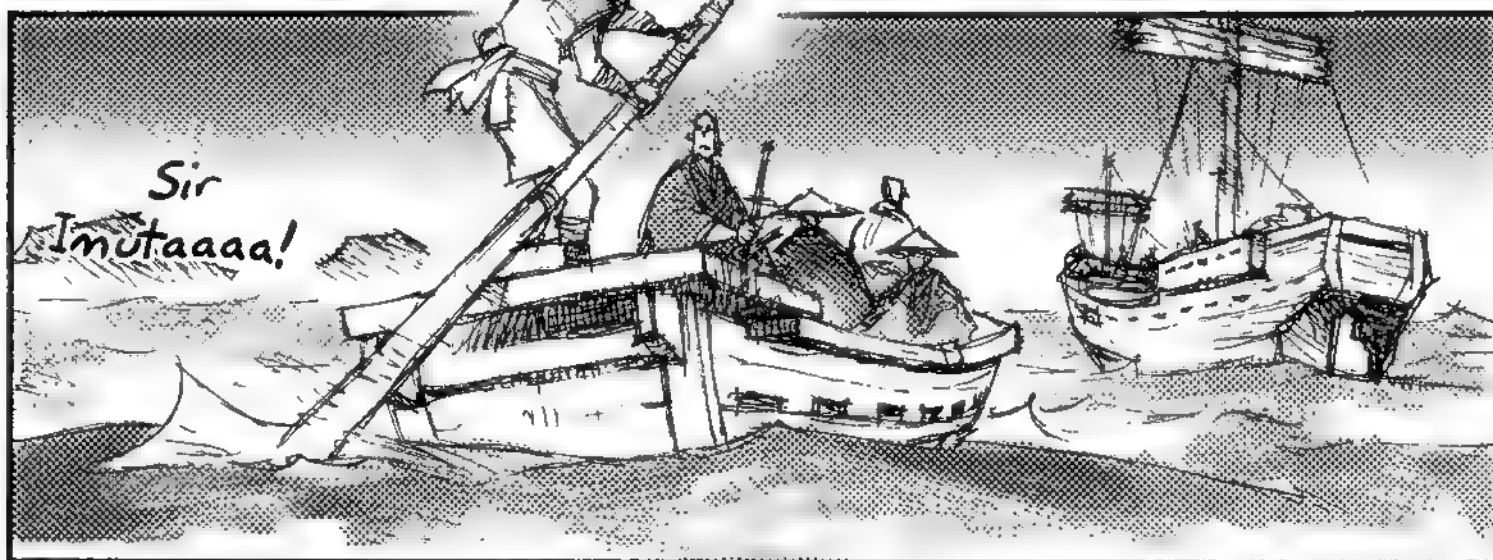
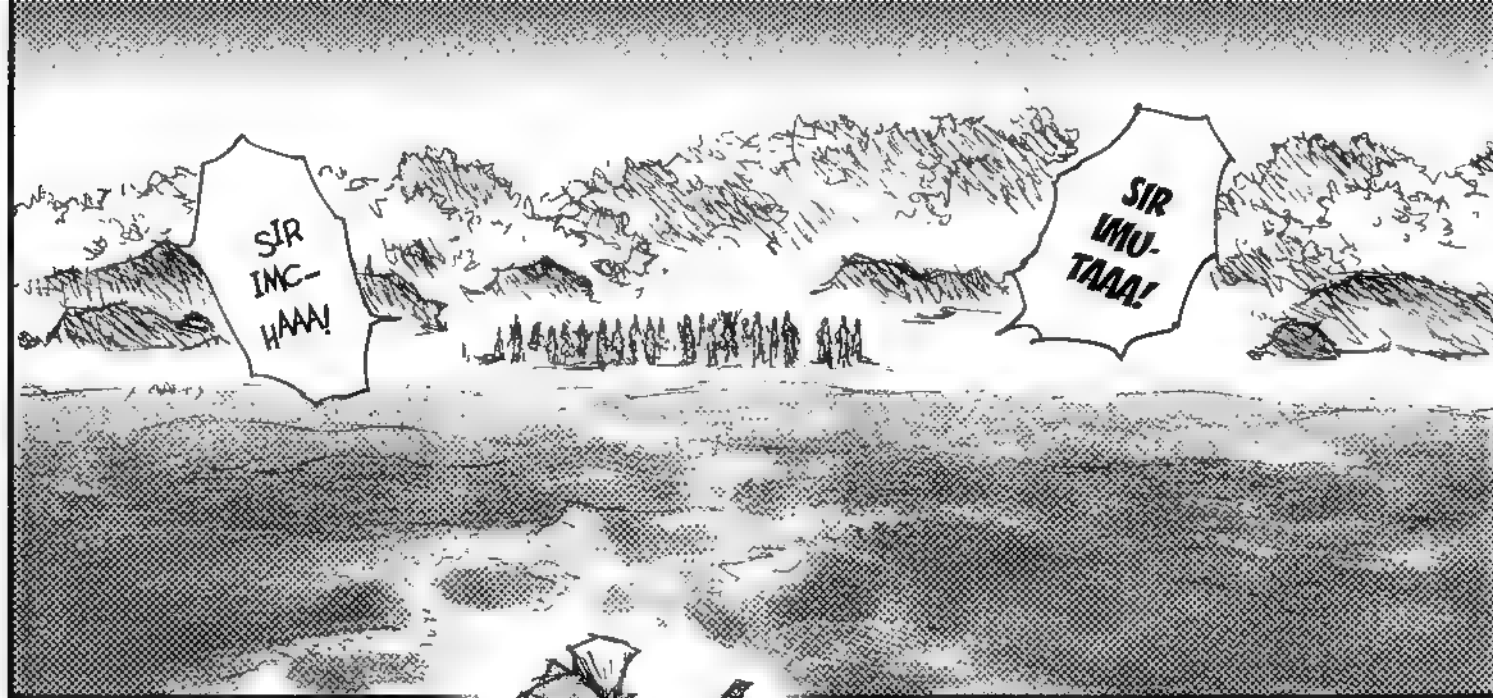
SIR  
IMU-  
TAAA!

PLEASE  
BE SAFE!



Y-YES.

HURRY UP,  
LET'S GO!





SFX:  
Whew,  
Playing



I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND...



IF I  
LIVE IN A  
VILLAGE,  
THEN EVERY-  
THING I NEED  
TO SURVIVE  
WOULD BE  
RIGHT  
THERE.



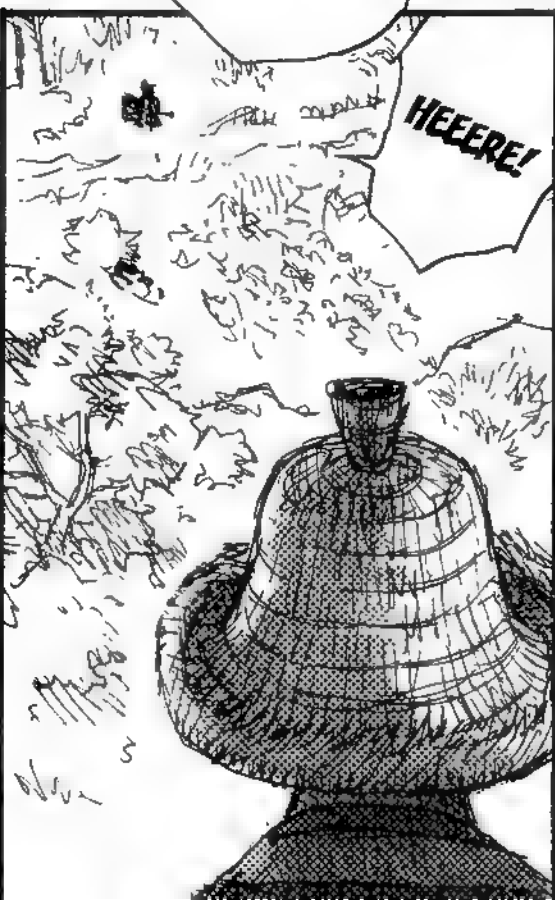
AND  
BECOME  
SO EN-  
THRALLED  
WITH CUTTING  
PEOPLE  
DOWN?

WHY  
DID I  
LEAVE  
THE VIL-  
LAGE,



ARE YOU  
THE SAME  
AS ME?

I THREW  
AWAY MY  
HUMAN  
HEART  
IN THAT  
VILLAGE.

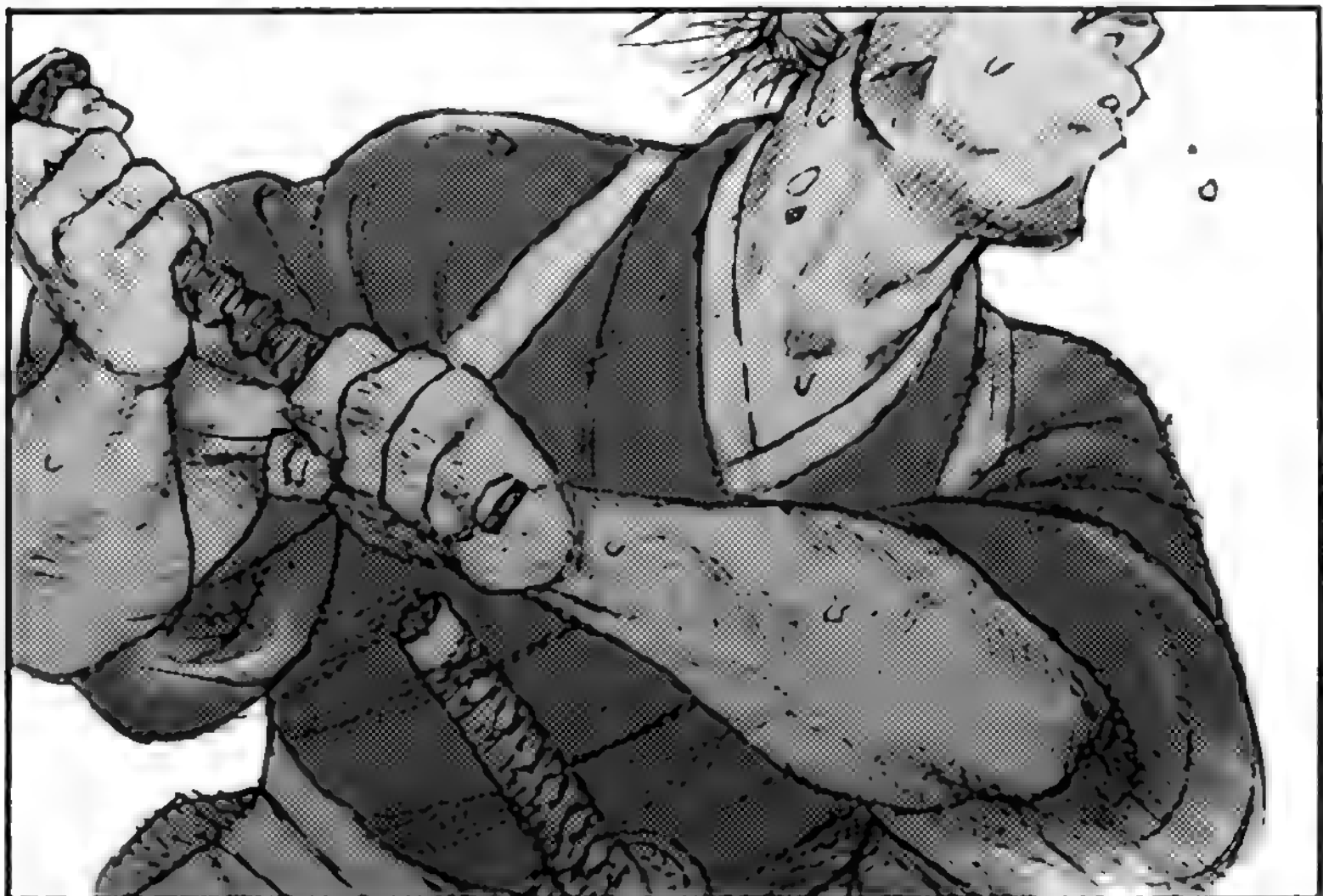


HEERE!



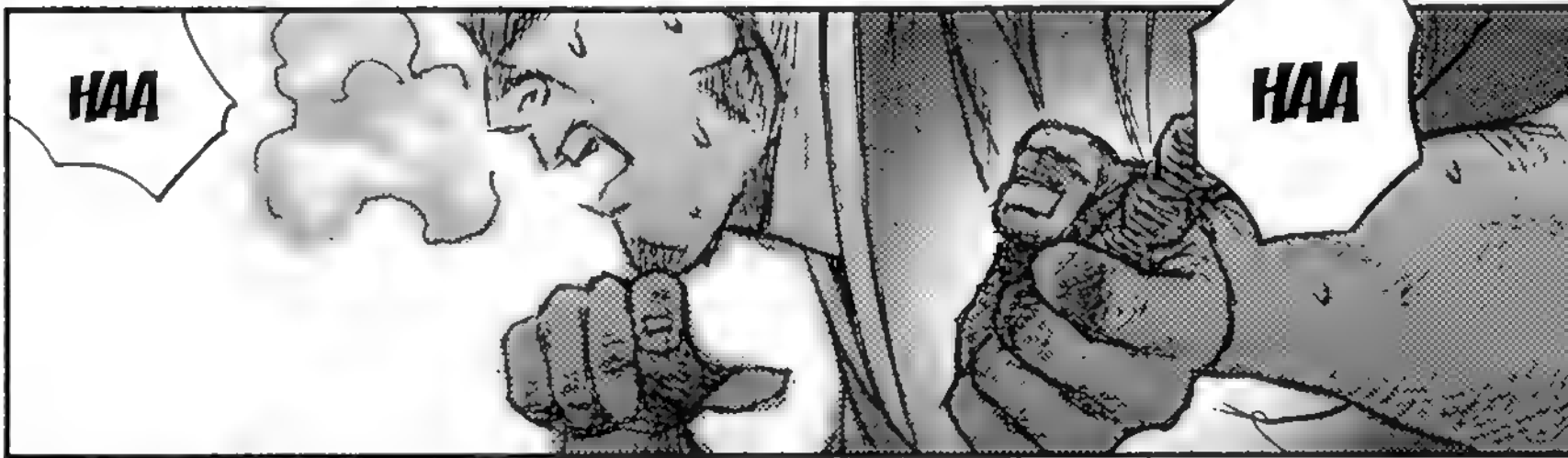
CHIYOOO!







SFX:  
Slash!  
Thwack!





**GAAA  
AAH!**



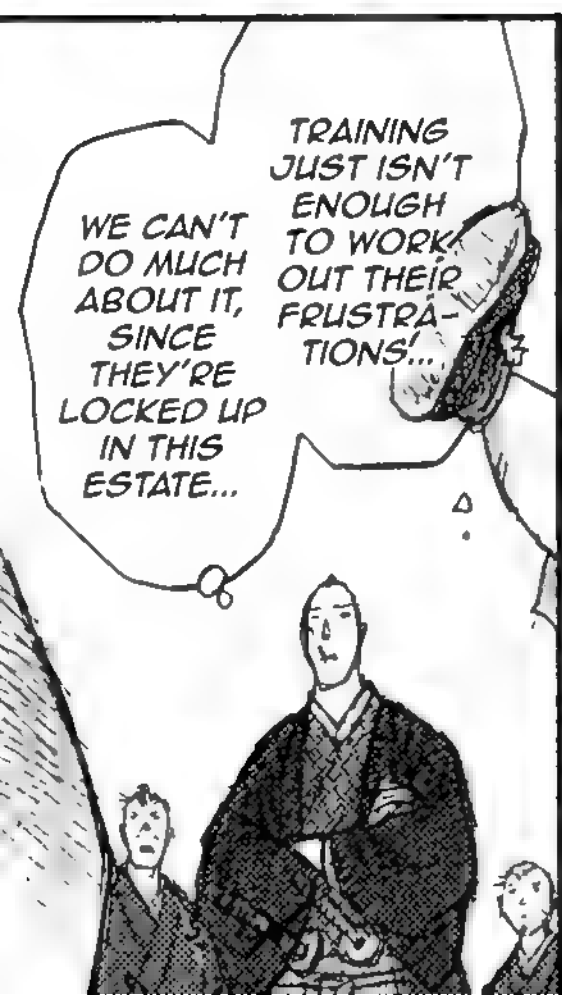
**WHAT ARE  
YOU GUYS  
DOING!?**

**HEY!**



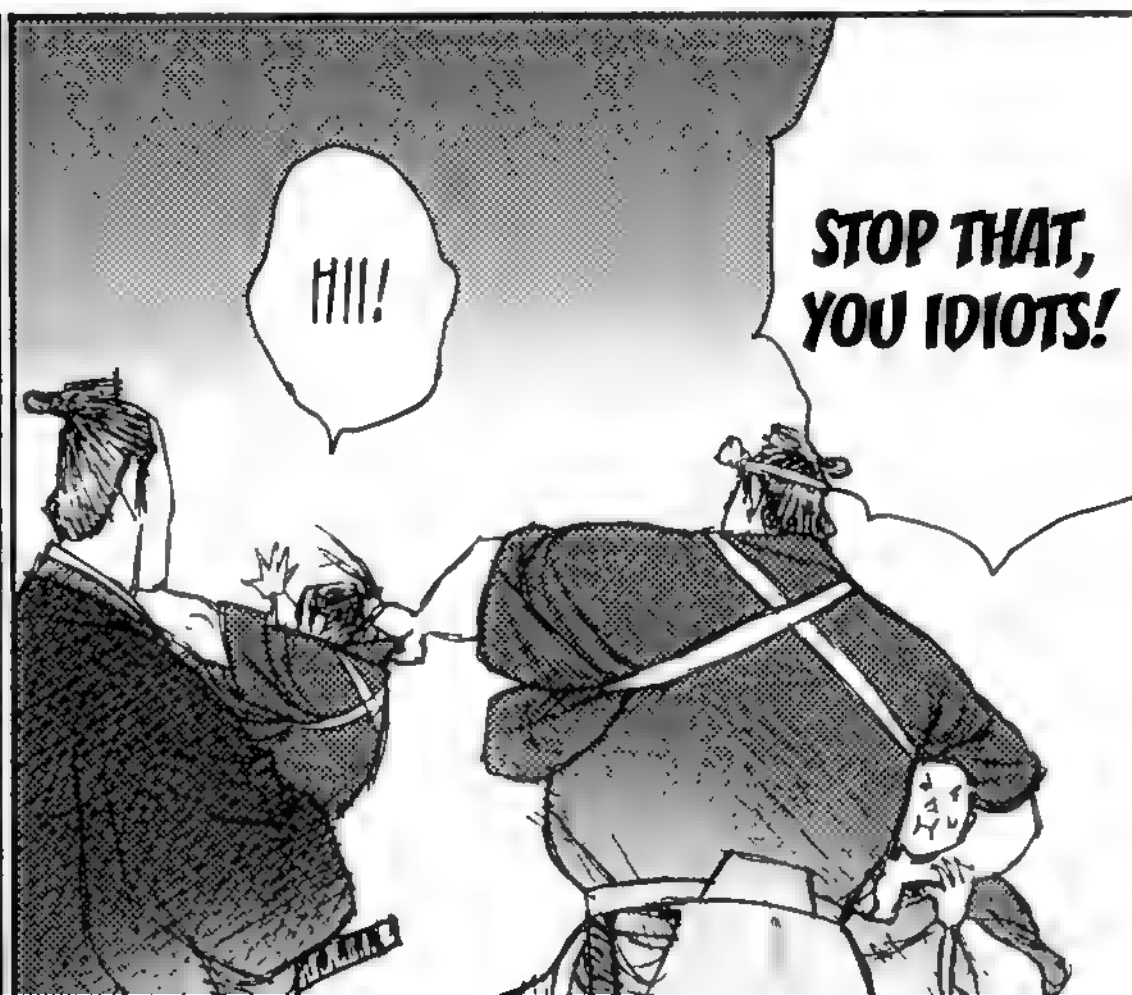
**IF THEY  
WON'T STOP,  
THEN WE'LL  
CUT THEM  
DOWN.**

**YONE-  
KICHI,  
STOP  
THEM.**



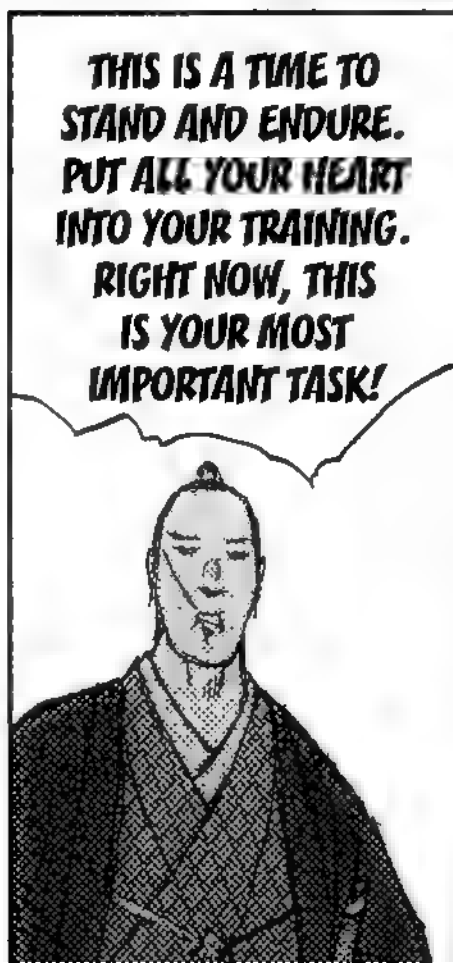
**WE CAN'T  
DO MUCH  
ABOUT IT,  
SINCE  
THEY'RE  
LOCKED UP  
IN THIS  
ESTATE...**

**TRAINING  
JUST ISN'T  
ENOUGH  
TO WORK  
OUT THEIR  
FRUSTRA-  
TIONS!...**

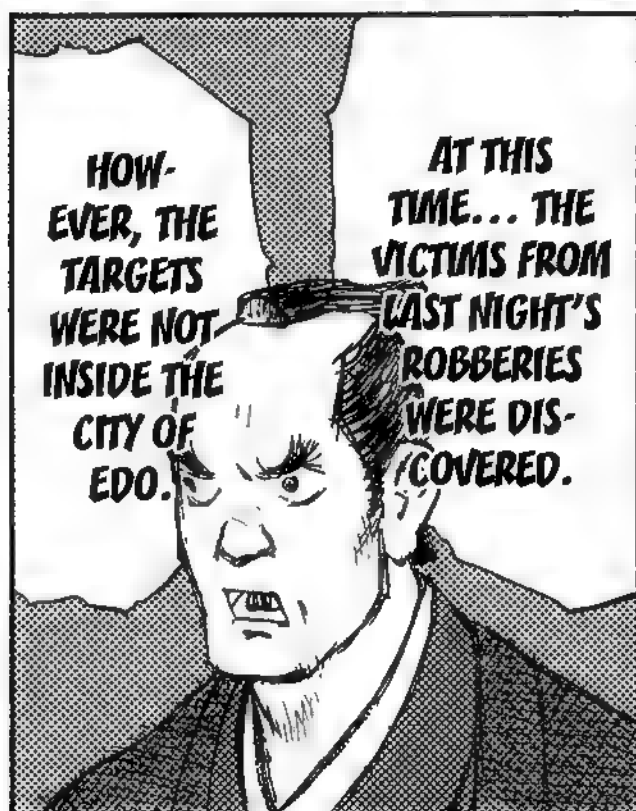


**HI!!**

**STOP THAT,  
YOU IDIOTS!**









SFX:  
Surprise





H-HEY,  
COULD  
SOMETHING  
HAVE HAP-  
PENED TO  
CHIYO-  
CHAN?



**UNDERSTOOD!?**  
**THE BASTARDS**  
**HAVE BECOME**  
**MORE CUNNING**  
**WITH THEIR**  
**TACTICS!**



**RE-  
MEMBER  
THAT!**

**WE MUST  
PUT A STOP  
TO THEIR  
EVIL DEEDS  
AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE!**



SFX:  
Grimace





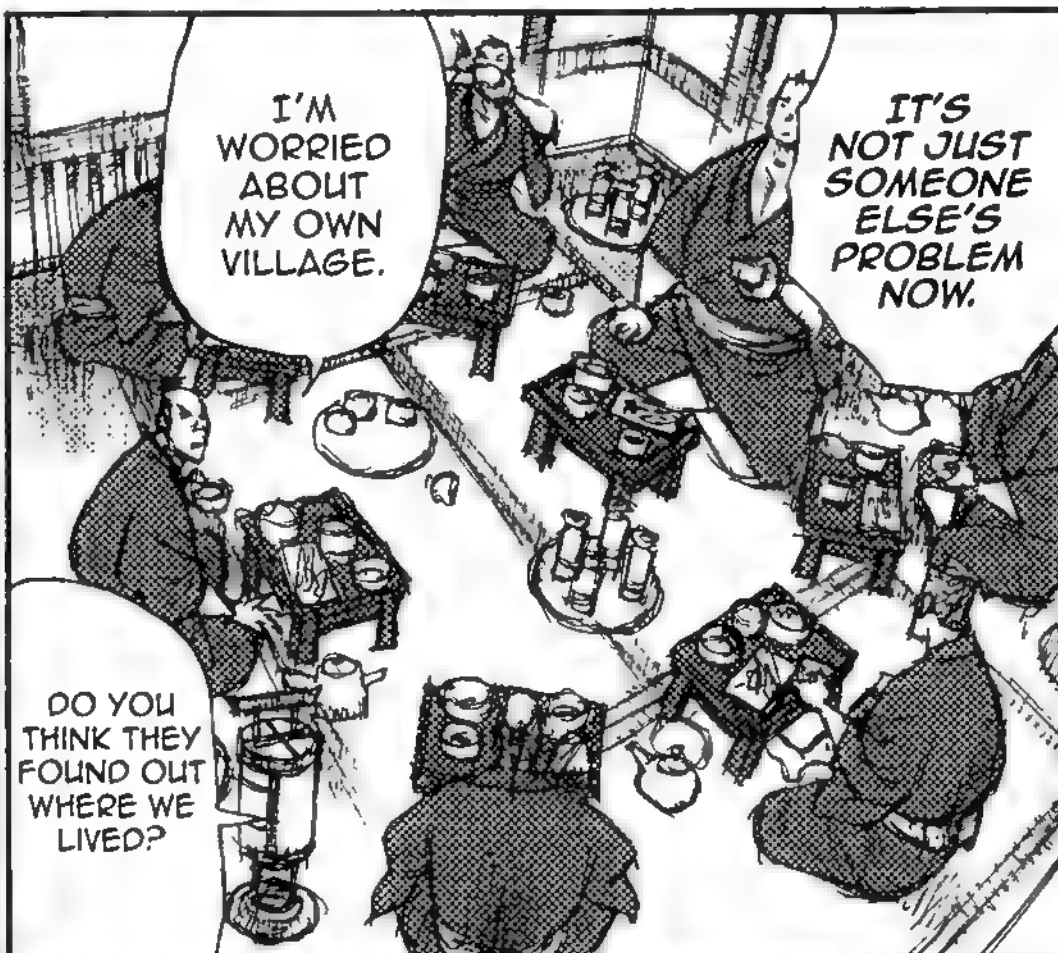
NOW THE  
FOOD IS  
STARTING  
TO TASTE  
BAD!

SHIT!



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING!?

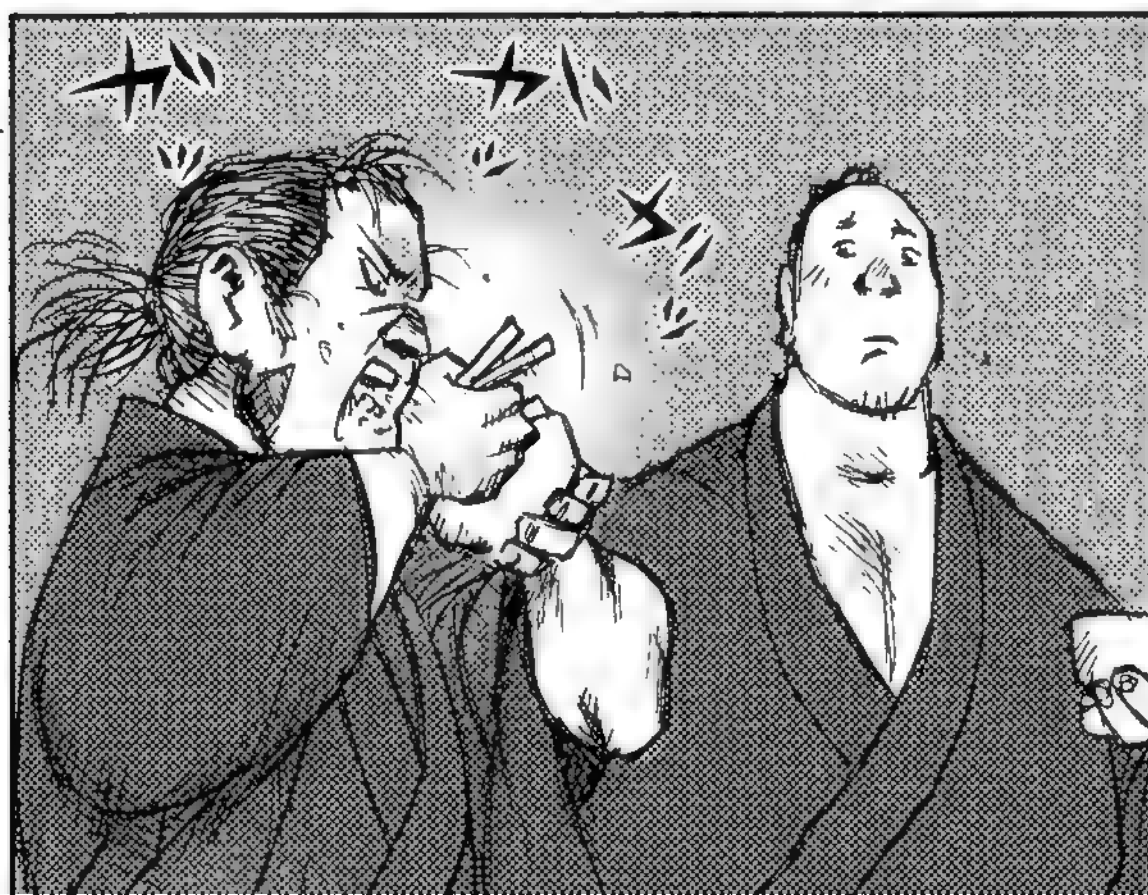
THAT  
BASTARD  
CHIYOMATSU  
BETTER  
NOT HAVE  
SPILLED  
THE BEANS  
BEFORE HE  
DIED!



I'M  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
MY OWN  
VILLAGE.

IT'S  
NOT JUST  
SOMEONE  
ELSE'S  
PROBLEM  
NOW.

DO YOU  
THINK THEY  
FOUND OUT  
WHERE WE  
LIVED?



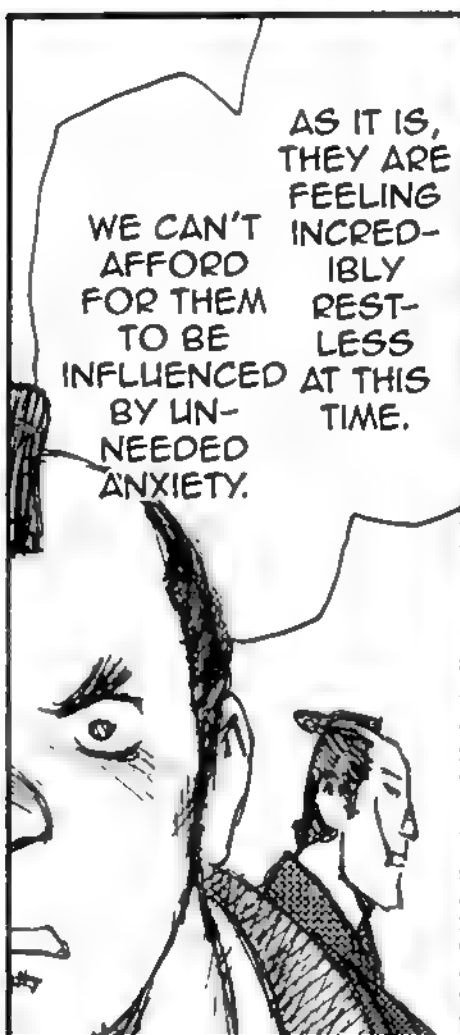
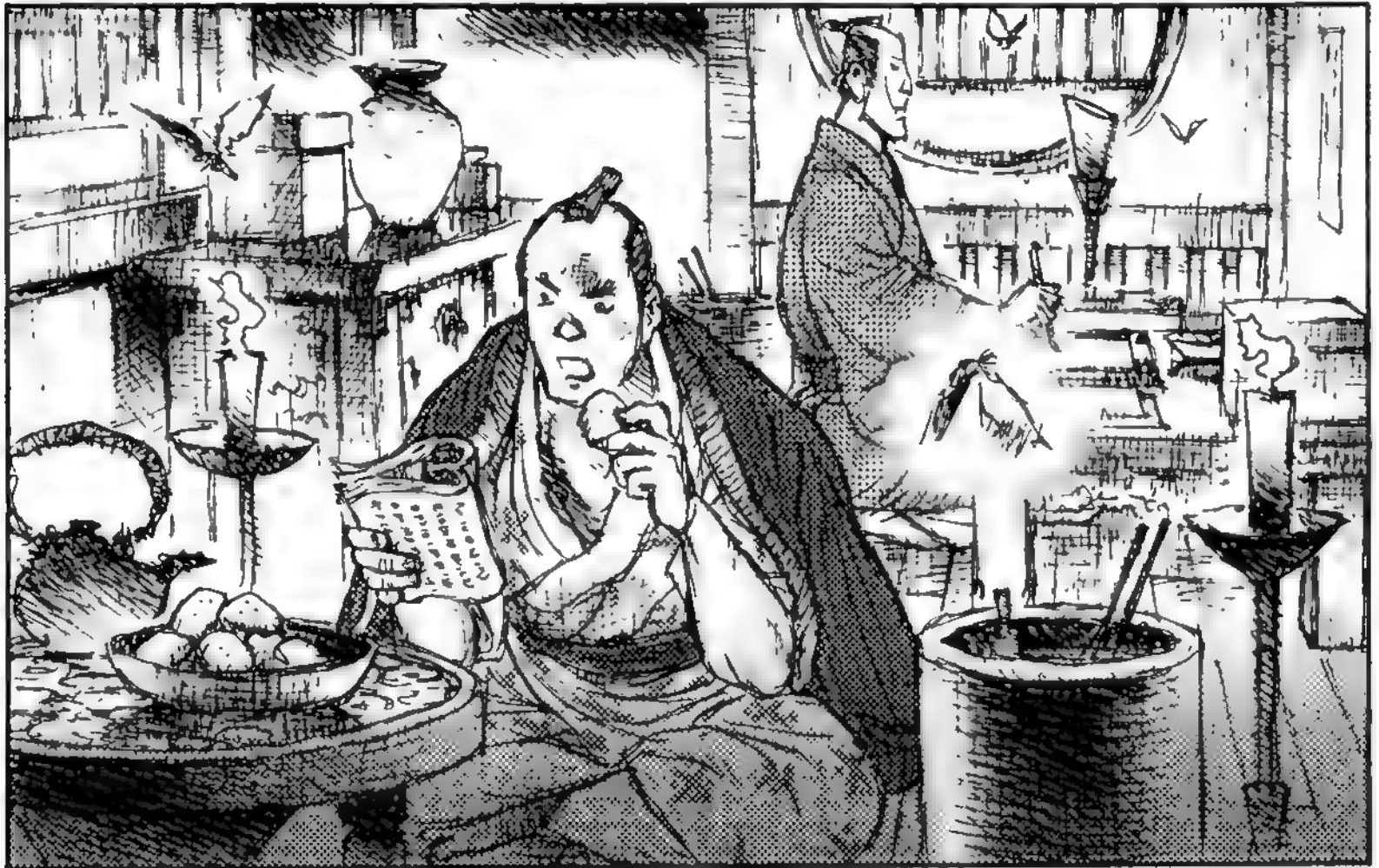
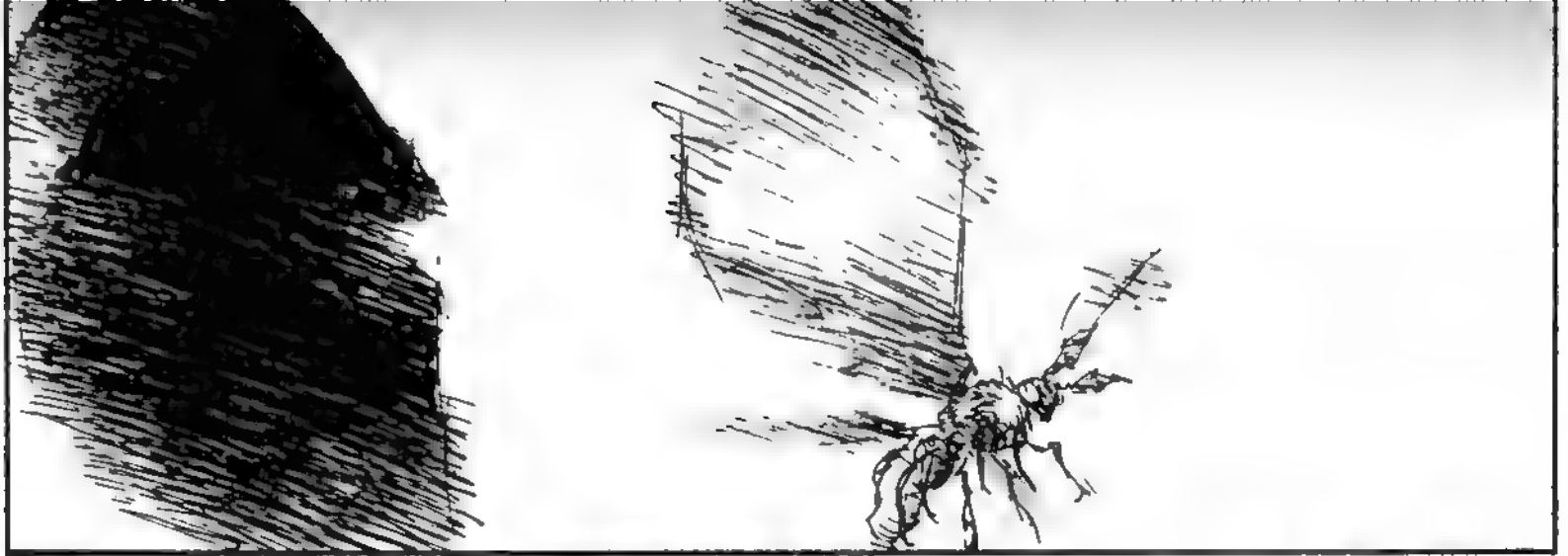
CAN'T  
EVEN GO  
OUT AND  
FUCK...

SHIT...  
I CAN'T  
DO THIS  
ANY-  
MORE...

SFX:  
Munch-  
ing

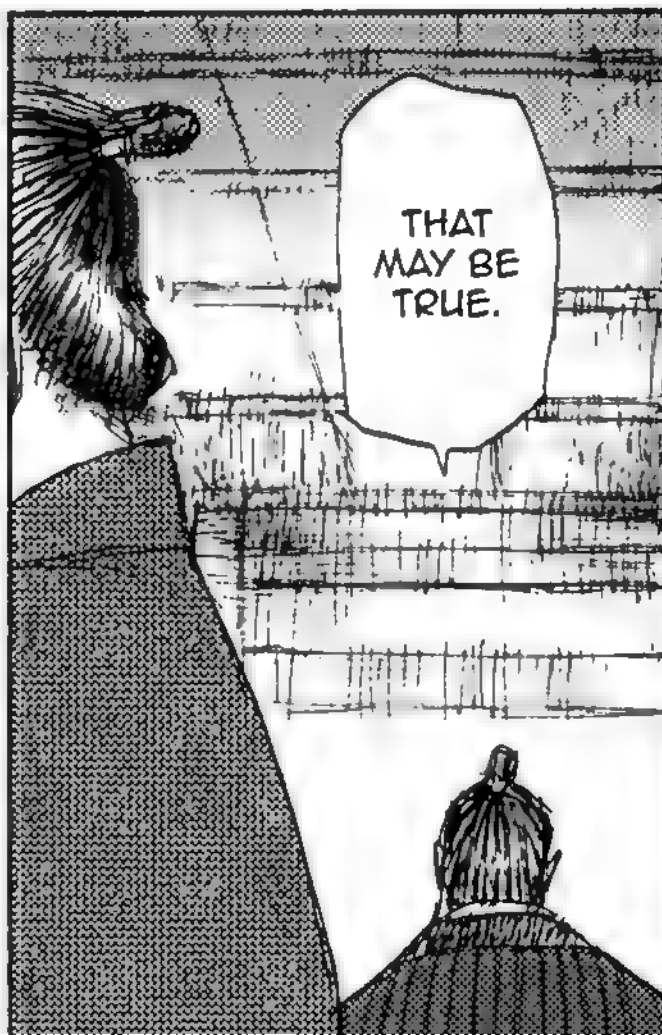






WE CAN'T AFFORD FOR THEM TO BE INFLUENCED BY UN-NEEDED ANXIETY.

AS IT IS, THEY ARE FEELING INCREDIBLY REST-LESS AT THIS TIME.



THAT MAY BE TRUE.



IT MAY HAVE BEEN A BIT SOON TO TELL SQUAD MEMBERS ABOUT IT...

ABOUT THE ATTACK ON THE VILLAGE.



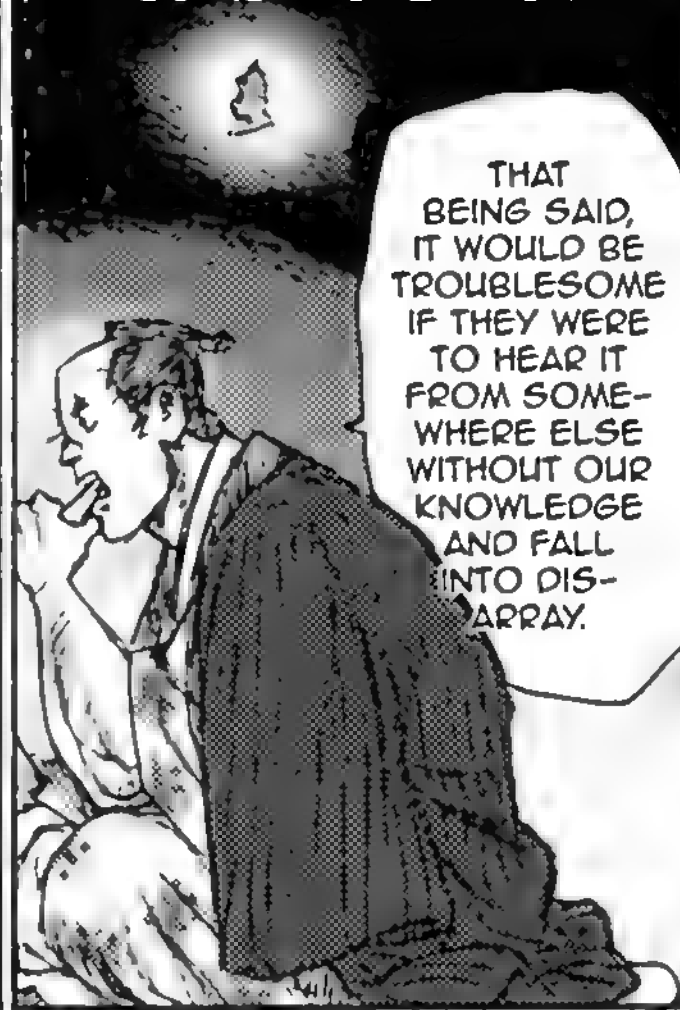


I CAN.

HOWEVER,  
CAN YOU  
SAY FOR  
CERTAIN  
THAT SAT-  
SUMA IS  
RESPON-  
SIBLE  
FOR THE  
ATTACK?



I SEE.



THAT  
BEING SAID,  
IT WOULD BE  
TROUBLESOME  
IF THEY WERE  
TO HEAR IT  
FROM SOME-  
WHERE ELSE  
WITHOUT OUR  
KNOWLEDGE  
AND FALL  
INTO DIS-  
ARRAY.



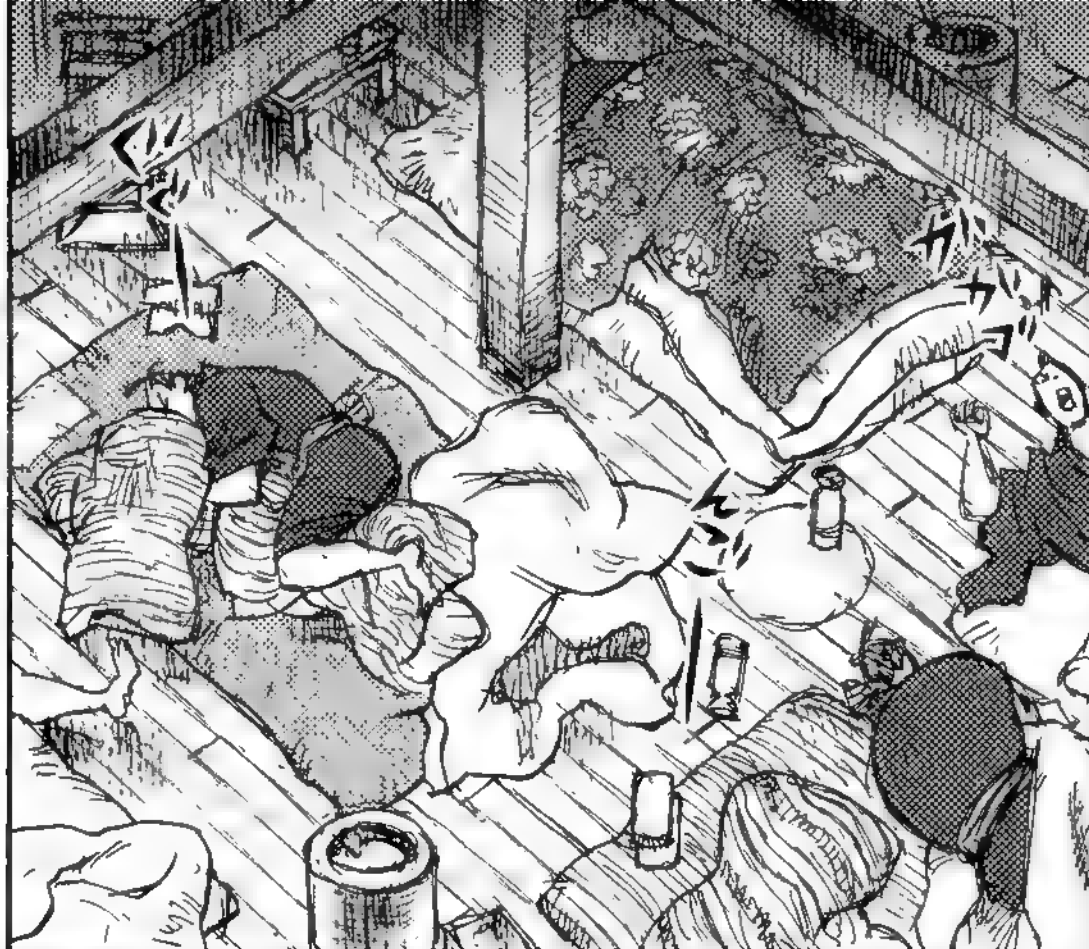
THE ONLY  
ONE THAT HAS  
THE MOTIVE OF  
FINDING OUT  
WHERE OUR  
SQUAD MEMBERS  
CAME FROM  
AND ATTACK  
THE VILLAGE  
WOULD BE  
SATSUMA.

I DON'T  
BELIEVE THAT  
IT'S A COIN-  
CIDENCE THAT  
USHIGOROU'S  
VILLAGE WAS  
ATTACKED.

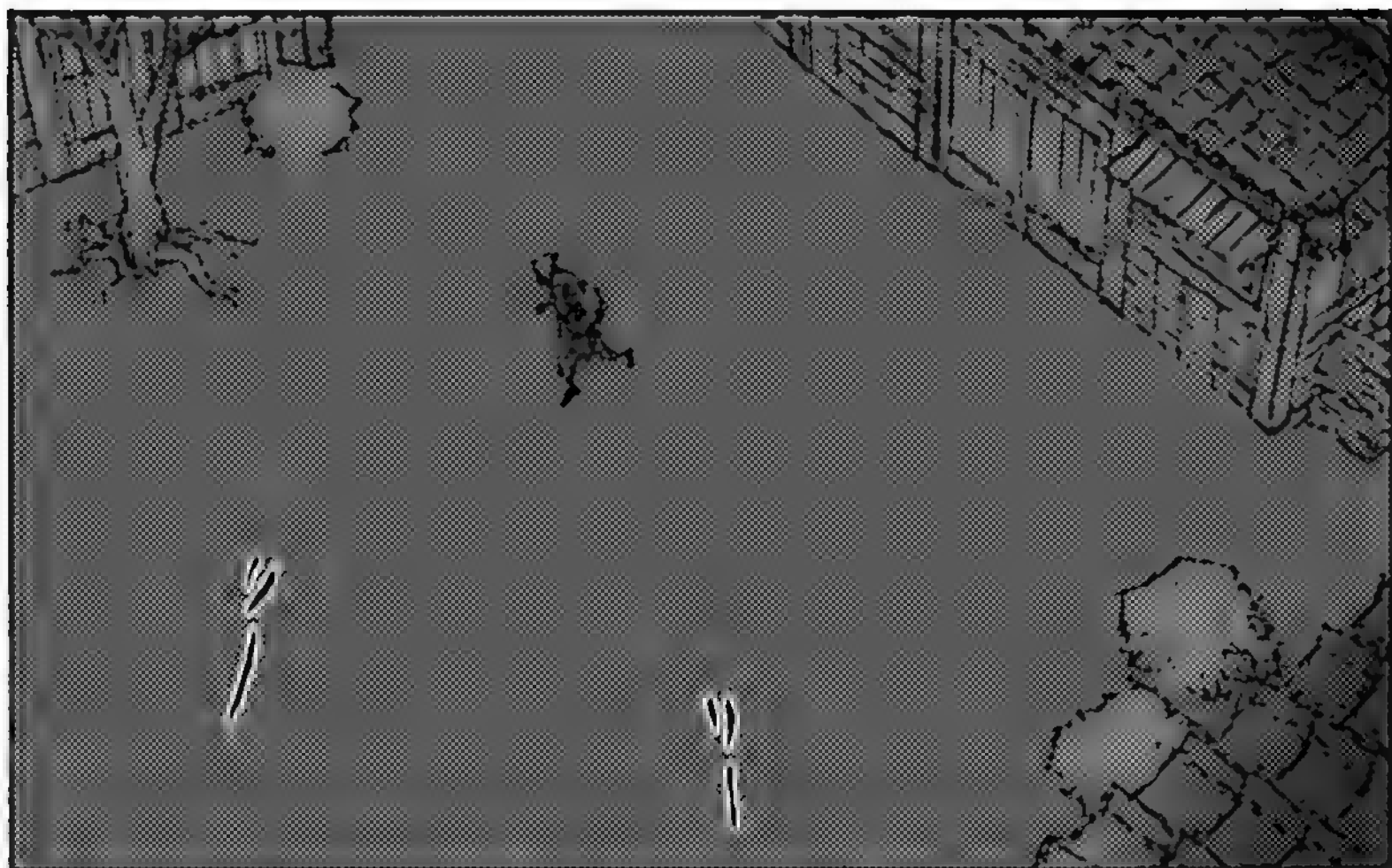


IS  
THAT  
SO?

SFX:  
Various  
snoring  
sounds



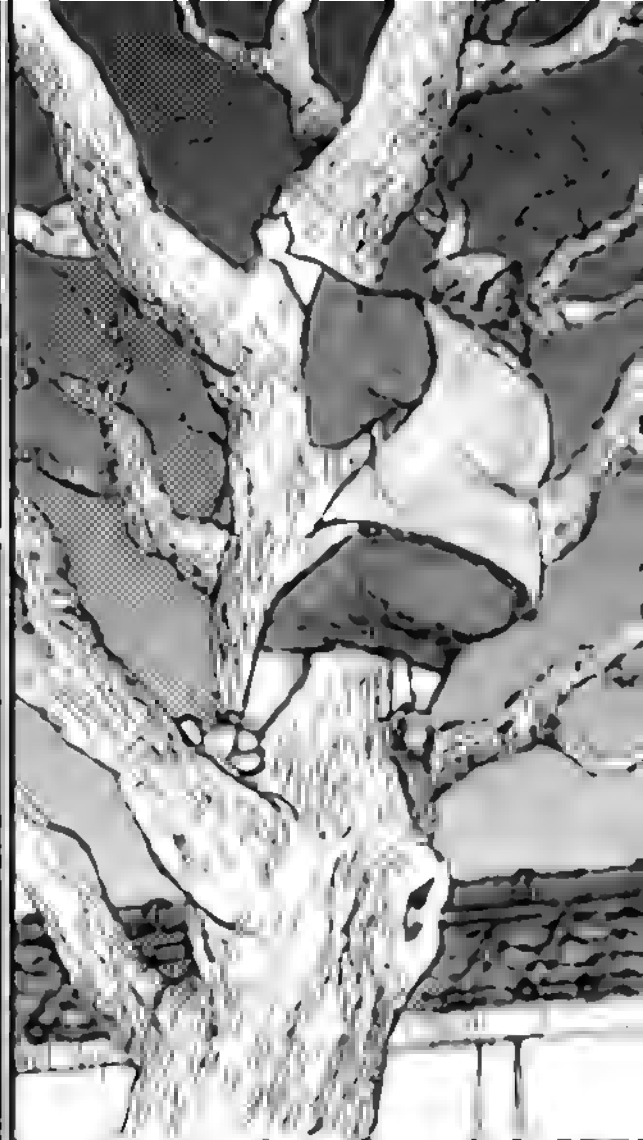
SFX:  
Cicada  
noises



SFX:  
Step







SFX:  
Thud

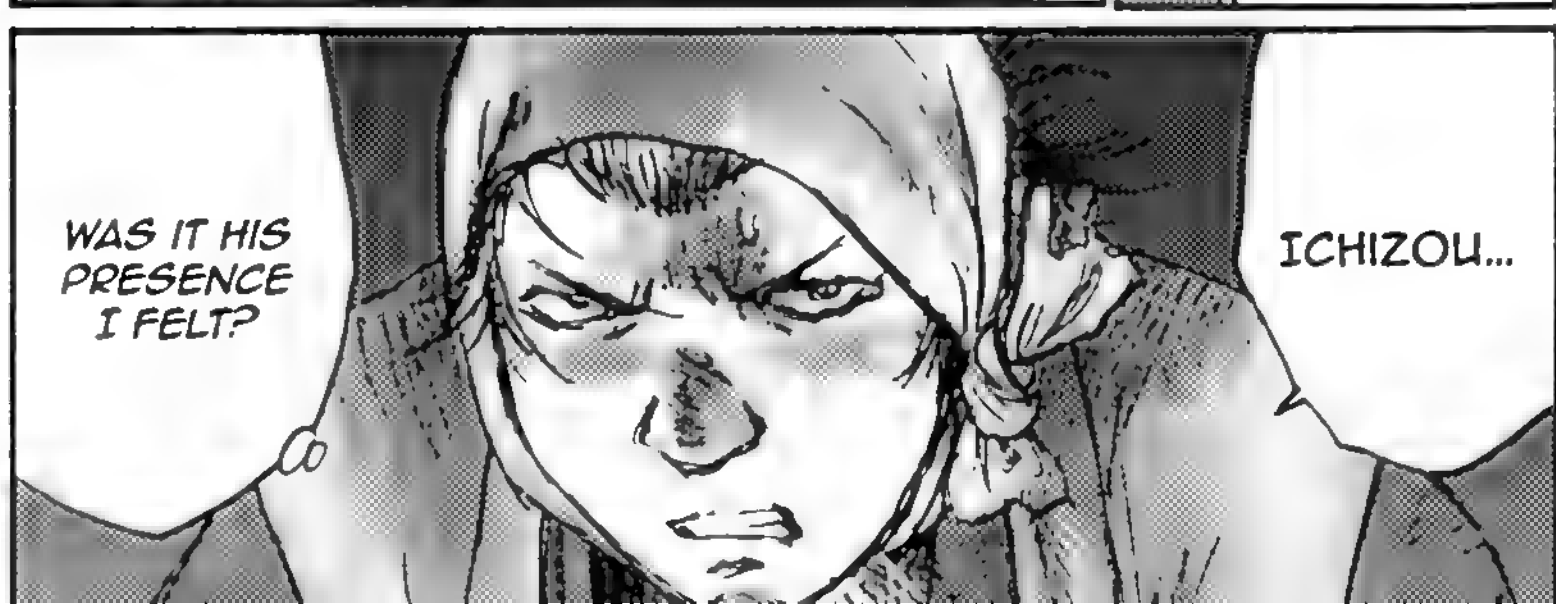
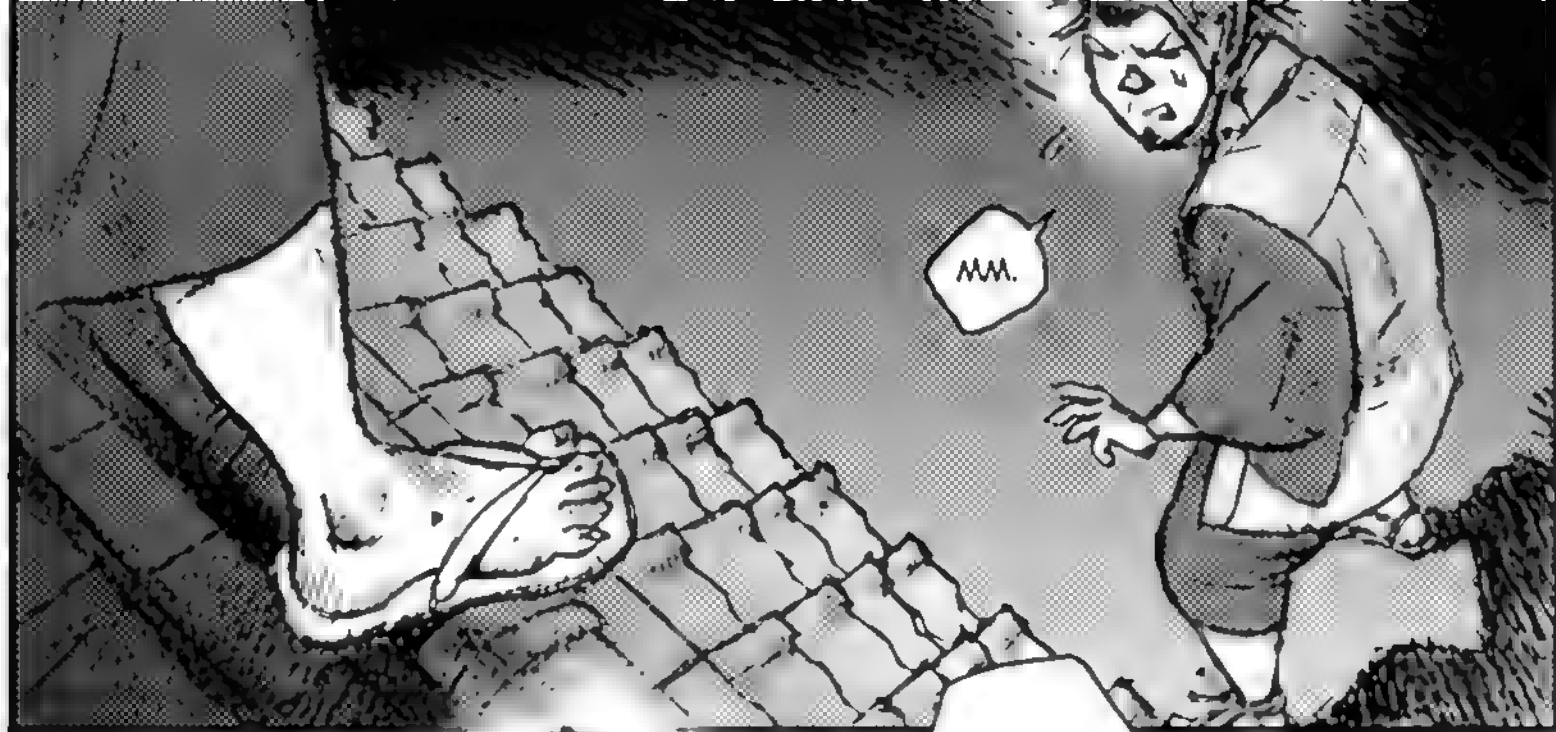


SFX:  
Jerk



USHI-  
GOROU!





SFX:  
Thud



DON'T  
SAY  
"TOU".



ARE  
PUT TO  
DEATH!

REGARD-  
LESS  
OF THE  
REASON,  
THOSE  
WHO LEAVE  
WITHOUT  
PERMIS-  
SION



WHAT?

I WON'T  
LET YOU  
SAY THAT  
YOU  
FORGOT.



AAH?

SO THAT  
MEANS  
YOU'RE  
DEAD  
TOO.







I WAS  
CHASING  
YOU,  
USHI-  
GOROU...

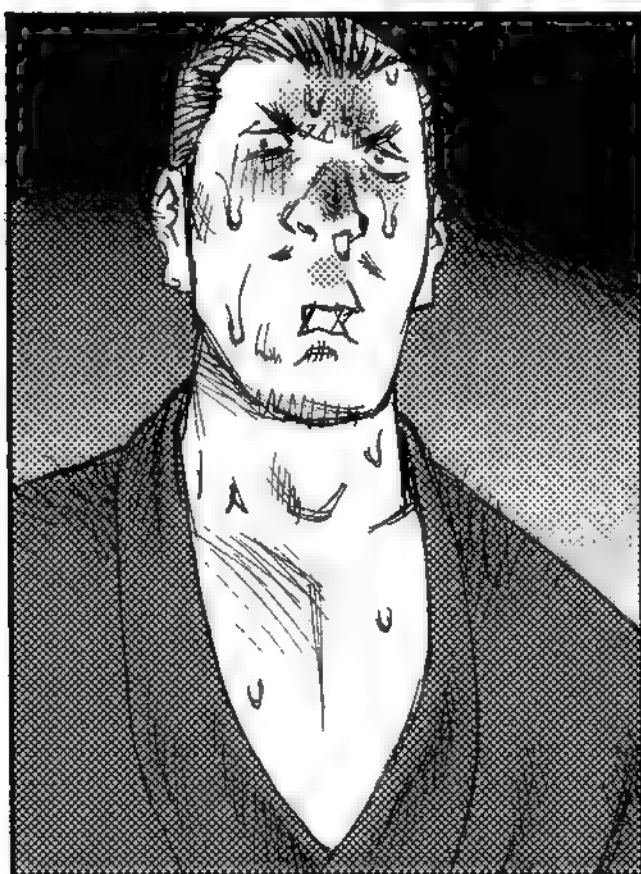
**DOESN'T  
MATTER!**



WHA...

YOU'RE  
ALSO  
OUTSIDE.

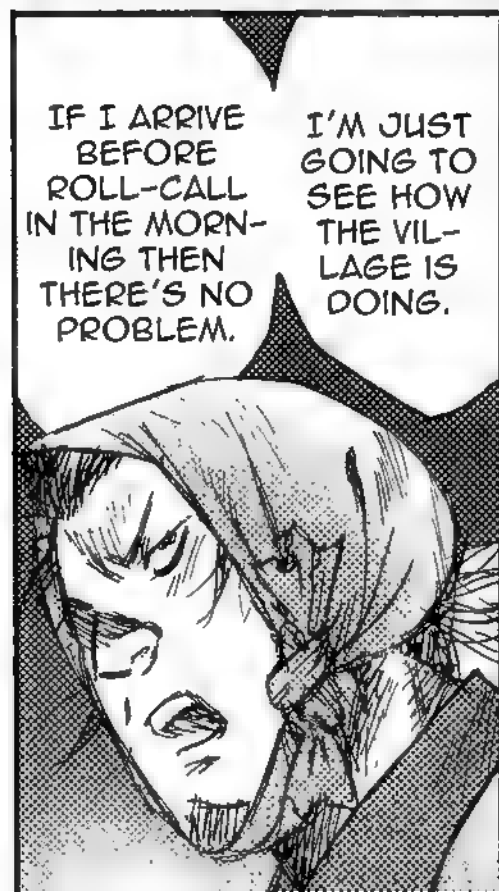
TH-  
THIS  
IS...



THEN  
YOU'RE  
DEAD  
TOO,  
ICHIZOU!



IF THEY  
DON'T  
CARE  
ABOUT  
THE  
REASON,



IF I ARRIVE  
BEFORE  
ROLL-CALL  
IN THE MORN-  
ING THEN  
THERE'S NO  
PROBLEM.

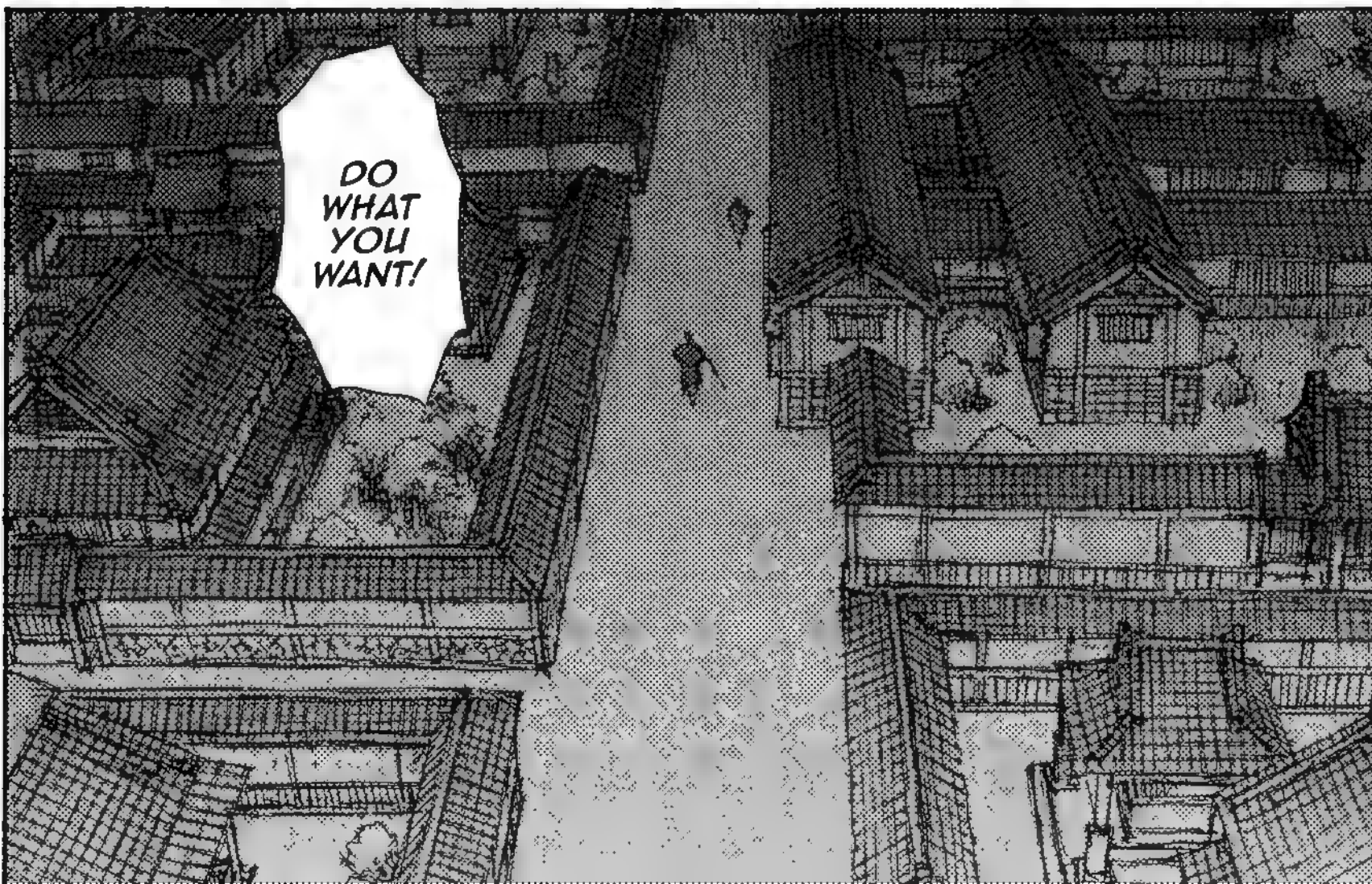
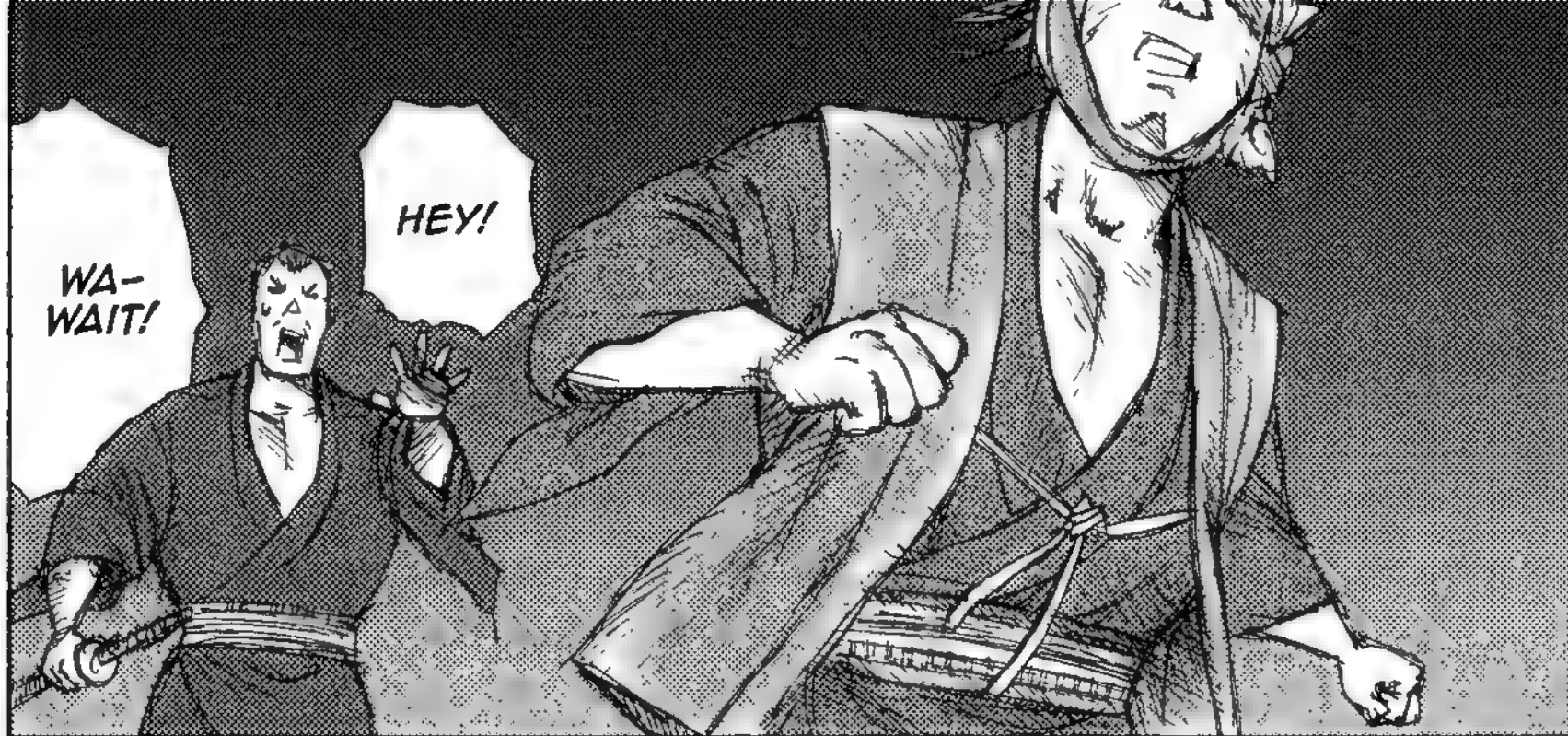
I'M JUST  
GOING TO  
SEE HOW  
THE VIL-  
LAGE IS  
DOING.



HOW  
WOULD I  
KNOW!?

WHAT  
SHOULD  
I DO  
NOW?

UHM...  
WELL...

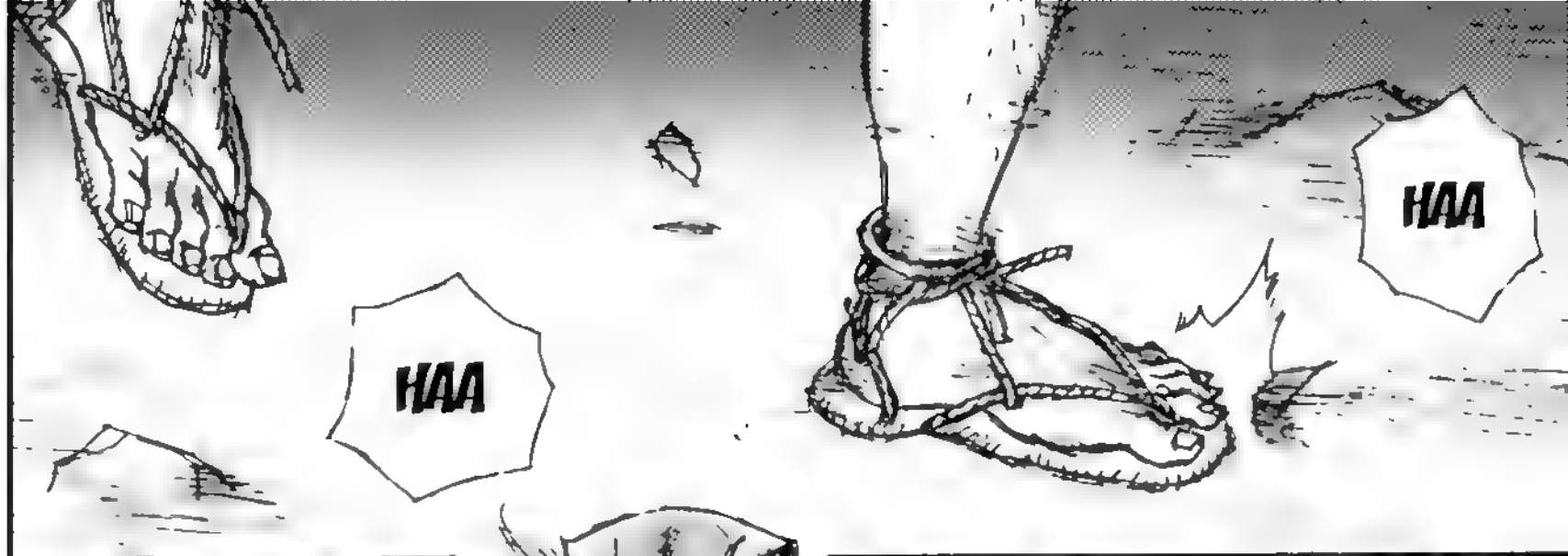






**CHAPTER 19 LOSS**





HAA

HAA



HAA

HAA



SFX:  
Wobbling

I'LL  
LEAVE YOU  
BEHIND!



HURRY UP  
AND COME  
OVER HERE!

ICHIZOU,  
WHAT THE  
HELL ARE YOU  
DOING?!



Bleargh

TCH!



I SAID  
TO LET  
ME REST  
A BIT  
YOU  
LITTLE...

YOU...  
DON'T  
FUCK  
WITH  
ME.

SFX:  
Wheeze  
wheeze



THERE'S  
NO TIME  
TO REST.

WE'LL  
GO AFTER  
YOU TAKE  
A DRINK.



HAVE  
SOME  
WATER!

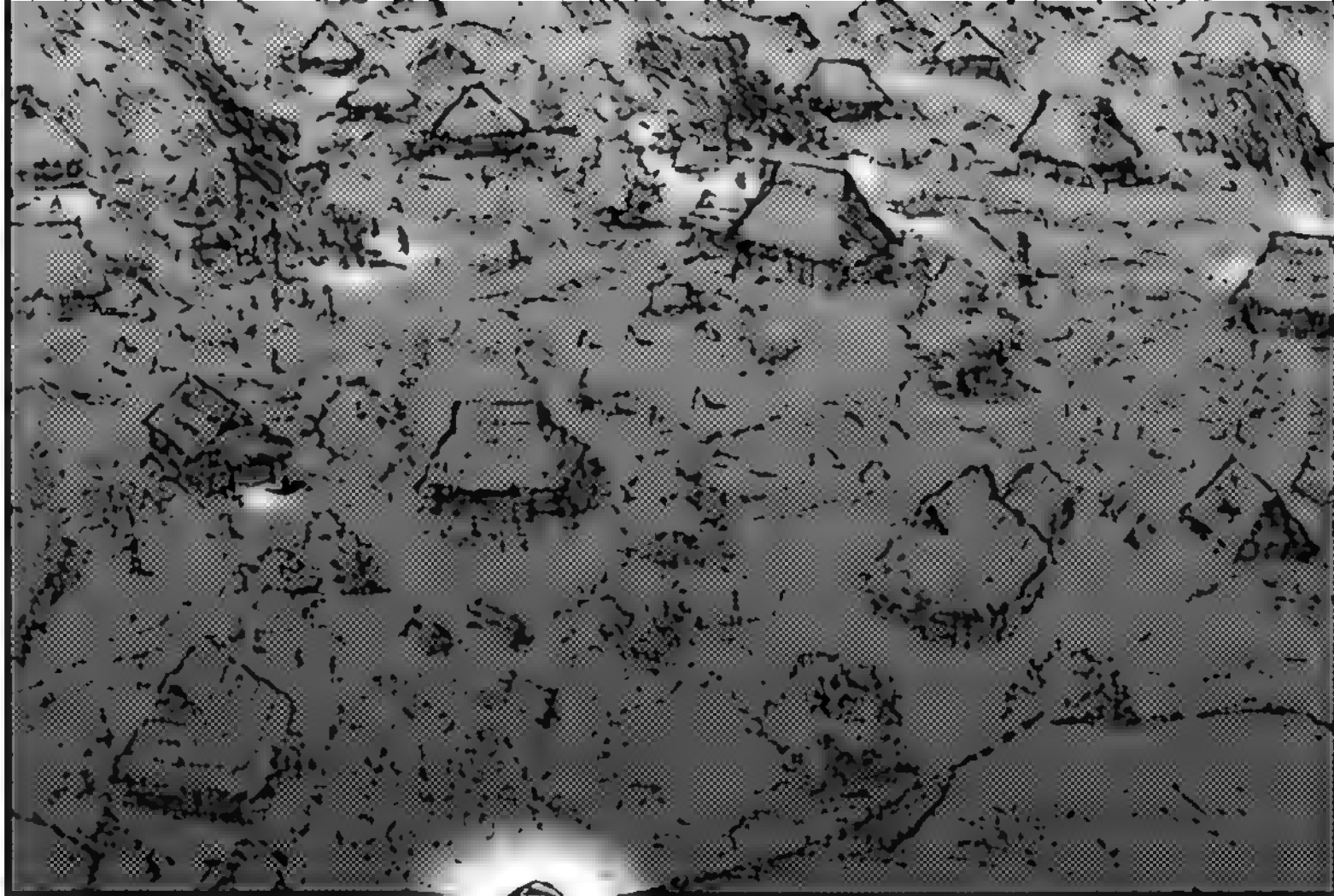
HERE!



PUT  
YOUR  
BACK  
INTO IT  
AND  
RUN!

IF WE DON'T  
HURRY, WE  
WON'T BE  
BACK IN THE  
MORNING.

SFX:  
Cicada  
noises



SFX:  
Wheezing



LOOKS  
LIKE THEY'RE  
GOING TO  
SPEND THE  
WHOLE NIGHT  
CLEANING  
UP AFTER  
A FIRE.

YEAH.

AND LOOK,  
YOU CAN  
SEE SMOKE  
AS WELL.



EVEN  
THOUGH  
IT'S SO  
LATE AT  
NIGHT.

THE VIL-  
LAGERS  
ARE STILL  
UP AND  
ABOUT,





THERE'S  
SMOKE  
COMING  
UP FROM  
YOUR  
PLACE  
TOO.



USHI-  
GOROU...



ATTACK  
THE VIL-  
LAGE...

SO, IT  
LOOKS  
LIKE  
SATSUMA  
DID



H-  
HEY!

ARE YOU  
SERIOUS,  
USHI-  
GOROU!?



SFX:  
Slide



SATSUMA  
MIGHT BE  
WAITING TO  
AMBUSH  
YOU!

IT'S TOO  
DANGER-  
OUS!



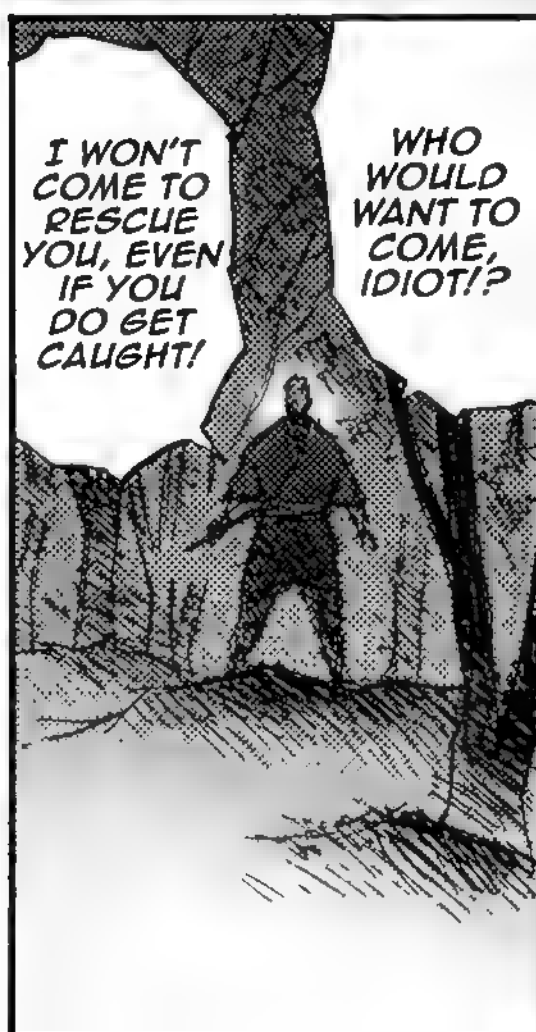
BUT...

BUT  
STILL...



I'M GOING  
TO SEE IF  
THE OLD  
HAG AND  
CHIYO ARE  
OKAY.

IT  
DOESN'T  
LOOK  
LIKE IT.



I WON'T  
COME TO  
RESCUE  
YOU, EVEN  
IF YOU  
DO GET  
CAUGHT!

WHO  
WOULD  
WANT TO  
COME,  
IDIOT!?

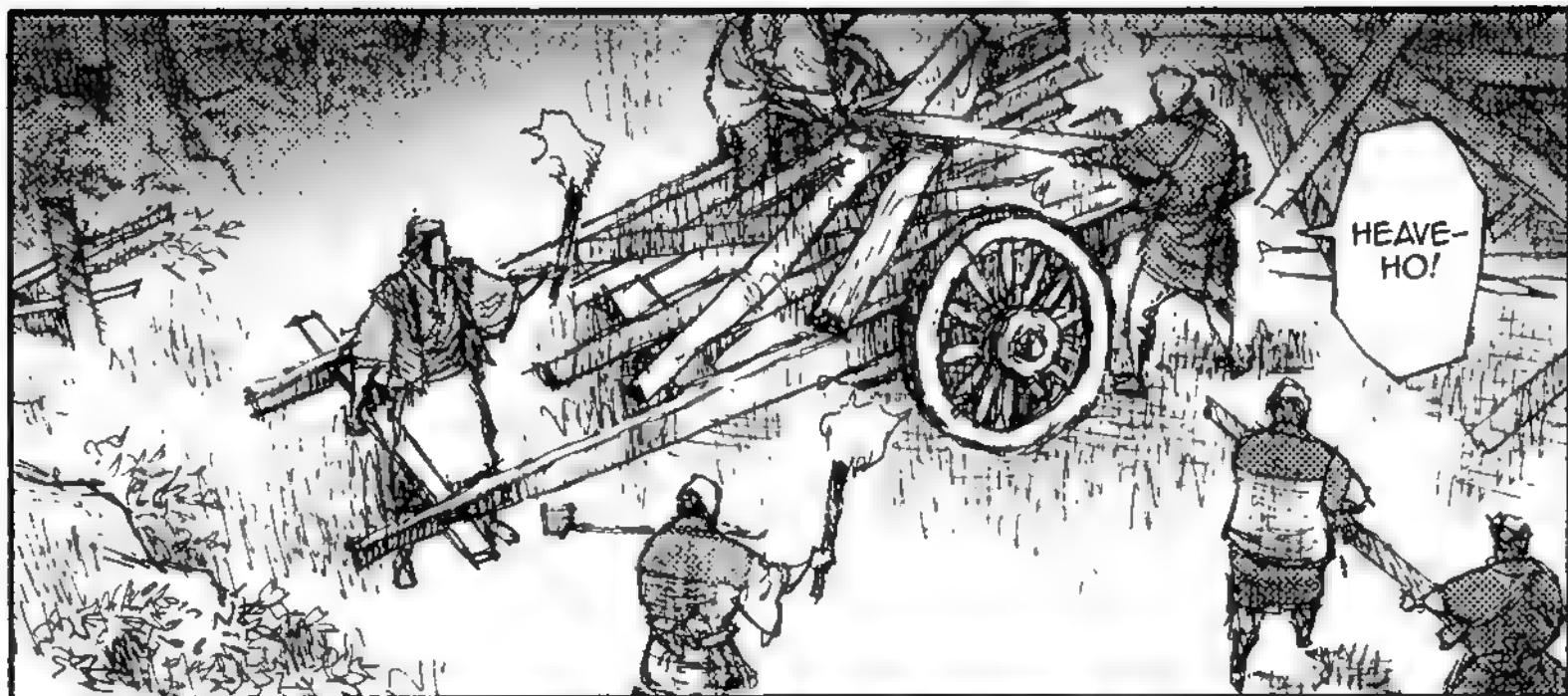


YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
COME,  
ICHIZOU.

IF  
SOMETHING  
HAPPENS,  
JUST RUN  
AWAY BY  
YOUR-  
SELF.

SFX:  
Rustle





HEAVE-  
HO!

SFX:  
rustle



HMM?



WHY ARE  
THOSE  
HOUSES  
ON FIRE?



HEY, WHAT  
THE HELL  
HAPPENED  
HERE?





HEY,  
USHI-  
GOROU  
CAME  
BACK!

WHERE  
ON EARTH  
WERE  
YOU?



WHAT?

LOOK AT  
THAT, IT'S  
USHI-  
GOROU!



EVERYONE  
WAS PRETTY  
SCARED SO  
WE SHUT  
OURSELVES  
INSIDE OUR  
HOUSES...



WE-  
WELL...

BUT WHO  
CARES  
ABOUT THAT,  
WHAT HAP-  
PENED  
HERE?

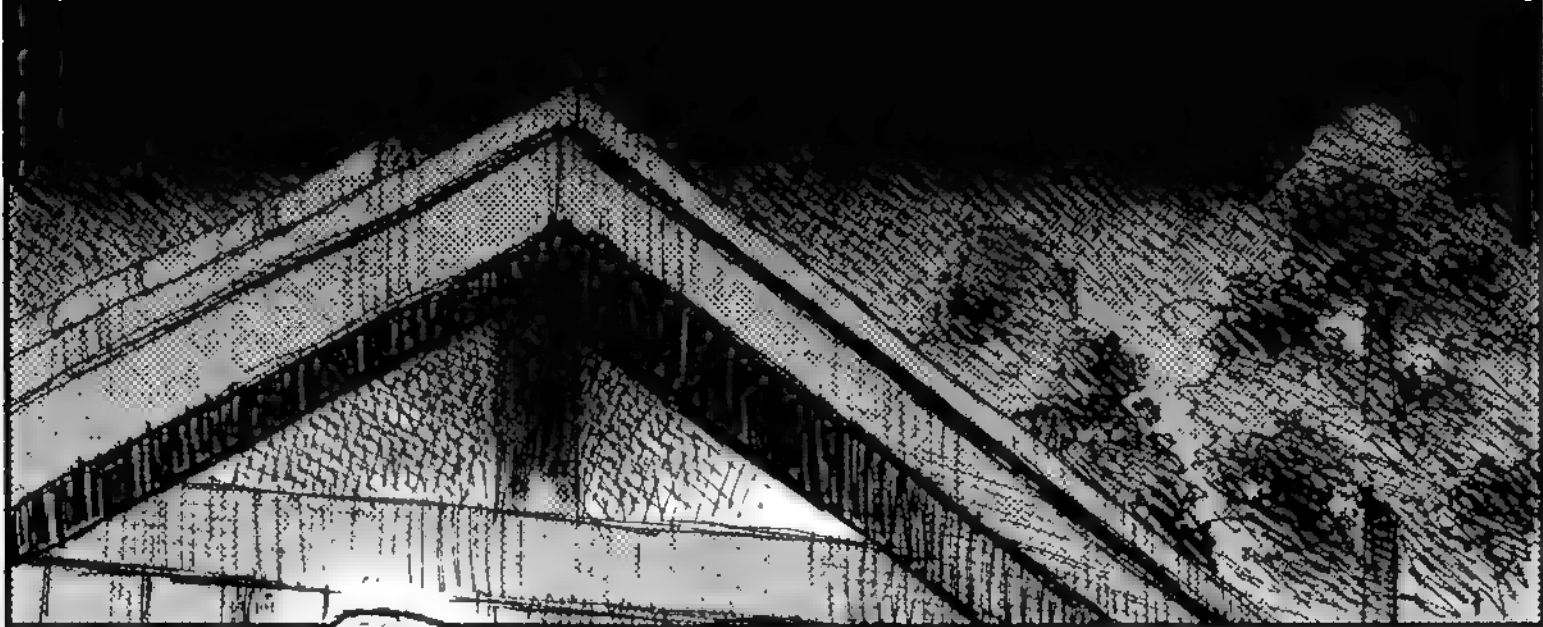


I WAS AWAY  
FROM HOME  
WORKING AS  
A LABORER.



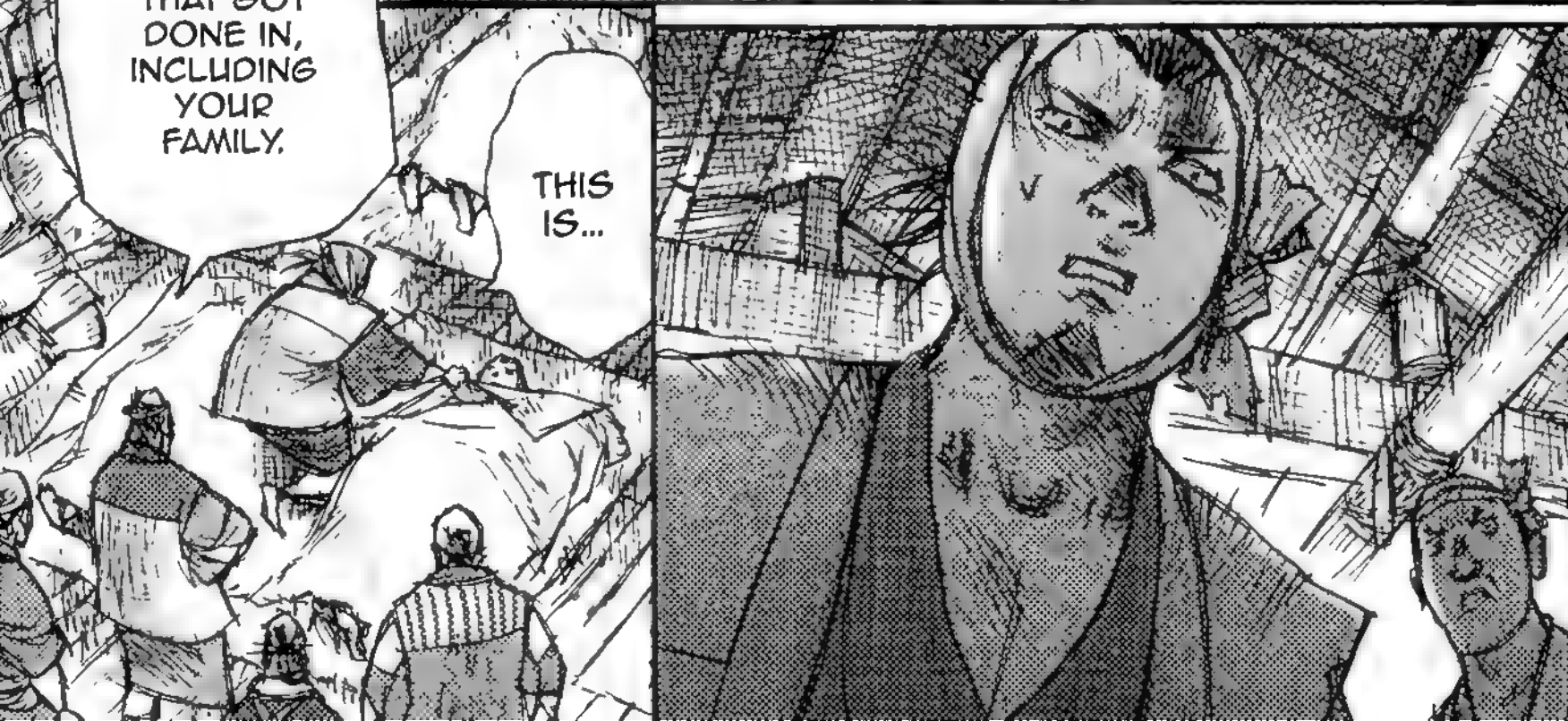
IT'S  
JUST WHAT I  
HEARD, BUT IT'S  
EXACTLY LIKE  
THE ROBBERIES  
HAPPENING IN  
THE CITY.





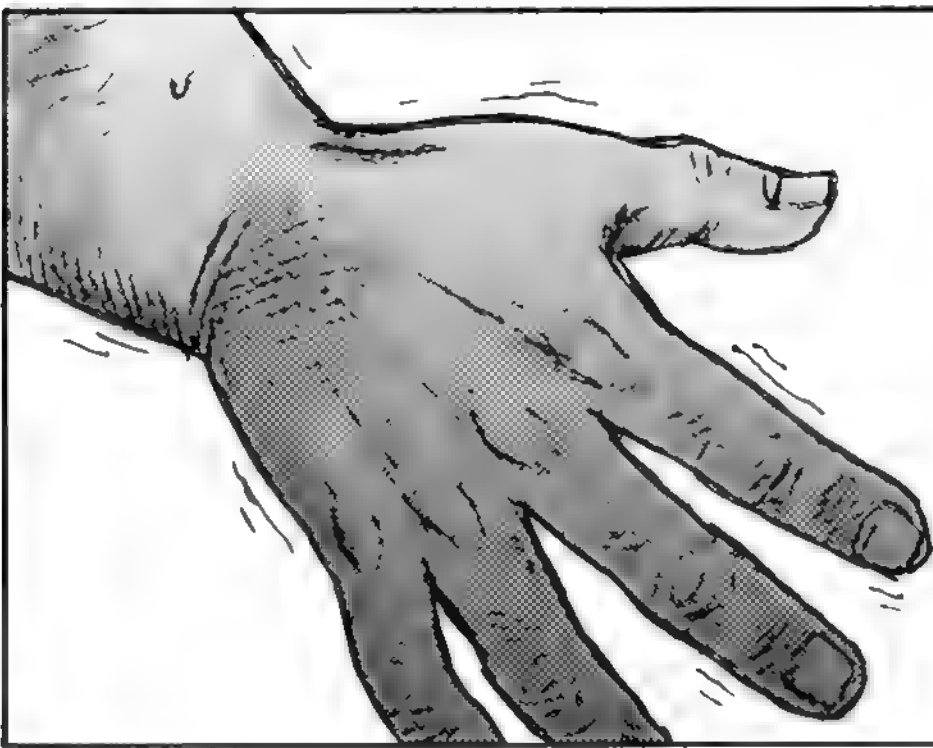
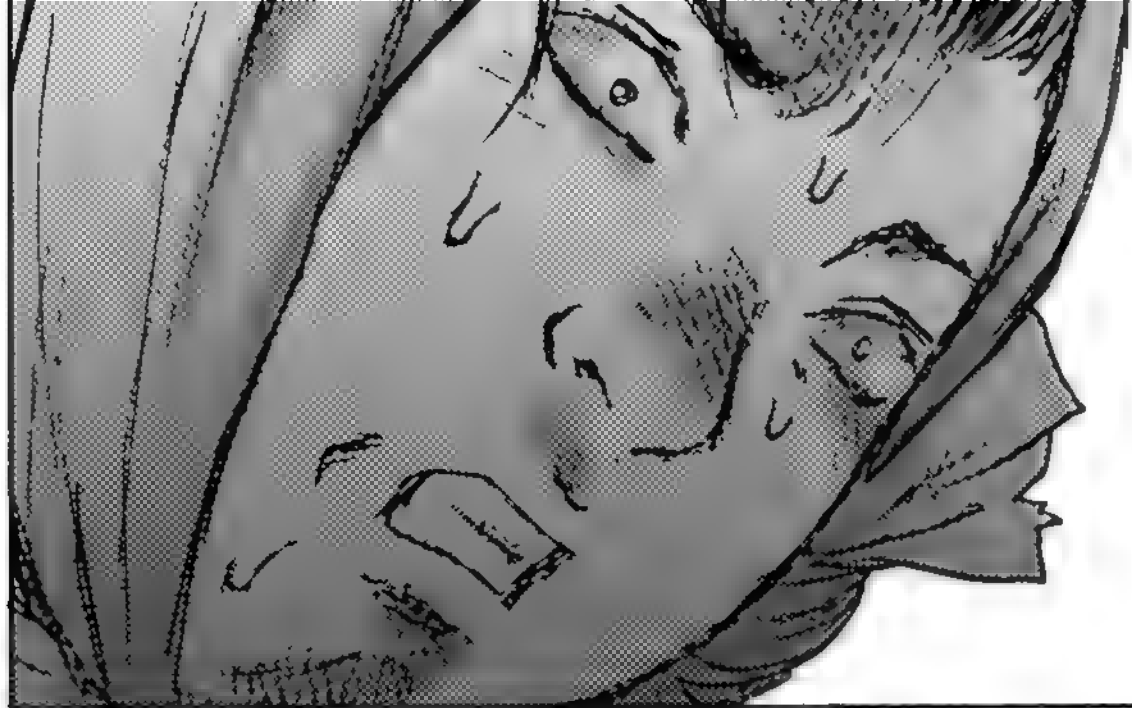
THERE  
WERE FOUR  
THAT GOT  
DONE IN,  
INCLUDING  
YOUR  
FAMILY.

THIS  
IS...









CHIYO...



USHI-  
GOROU!

YOU KNOW  
SOMETHING,  
DON'T YOU?

WHY WOULD  
A SAMURAI  
FROM SAT-  
SUMA COME  
ALL THE WAY  
OUT HERE  
IN THE  
STICKS?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
UP TO,  
USHI-  
GOROU?

YOU'RE  
NOT A  
LABORER,  
ARE  
YOU?



THERE WERE  
SUSPICIOUS  
SAMURAI  
GOING AROUND  
COLLECTING  
THE YOUNG  
MEN FROM  
VILLAGES.



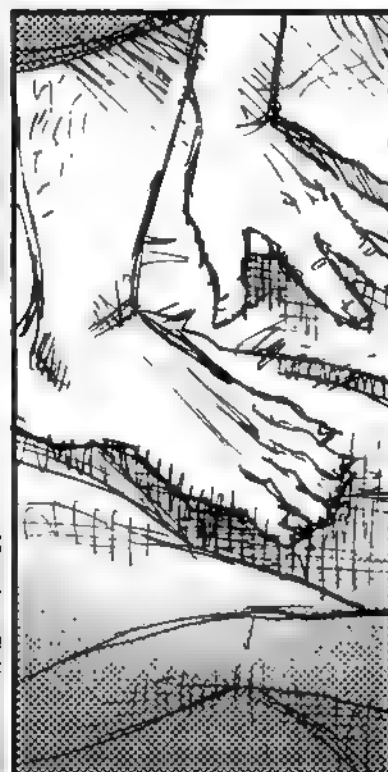
**ANSWER  
ME.**





DOING  
WHILE THIS  
WAS HAP-  
PENING?

WHAT  
WERE YOU  
GUYS



WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?

HUH?



WAS IT  
OKAY TO DO  
NOTHING  
AS LONG AS  
YOU WERE  
SAFE!?

WH-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?


EVEN THOUGH  
YOU SAW THE  
HOUSE BEING  
ATTACKED, WHY  
DIDN'T YOU  
RESCUE THEM!?





**IT'S YOUR  
FAULT THAT  
CHIYO WAS  
KILLED!**

**THAT'S WHY  
THEY TREAT  
US PEASANTS  
LIKE IDIOTS!**



**IT'S BECAUSE  
OF YOU THAT  
A HOUSE THAT  
DIDN'T HAVE  
ANYTHING TO DO  
WITH THIS GOT  
BURNED DOWN  
AS WELL!**

**TH-THAT'S  
OUR LINE!**



**IT  
WOULD'VE  
BEEN BETTER  
IF YOUR WIFE  
HAD DIED  
INSTEAD!**



**WH-WH-  
WHAT DID  
YOU SAY!?**

**WHY  
WOULD I  
CARE!?**

**THAT'S  
GOING  
TOO FAR!**

SFX:  
Grab



I DARE  
YOU TO SAY  
THAT ONE  
MORE  
TIME!

FUCKER!

YOU...



SFX:  
Cracking  
squeeze



OUCH  
OUCH  
OUCH!

GAAAH!

SFX:  
Thwack!







SFX:  
scratch

**RR  
RRR!**

**YOU LET  
CHIYO  
DIE!**

**I WON'T  
FORGIVE  
YOU!**

SFX:  
Grab

**STOP IT,  
USHI-  
GOROU!**

**I'LL  
KILL  
YOU  
ALL!**



SFX:  
Wham



SFX:  
Whack



WE'RE  
GONNA TAKE  
HIM TO THE  
SAMURAI  
FROM SAT-  
SUMA!



WE'RE GONNA  
TAKE HIM  
DOWN AND  
CAPTURE  
HIM!

WH-WHO  
CARES!



SFX:  
Thud



IF WE HAND  
THIS GUY TO  
SATSUMI,  
THEY'LL  
FORGIVE  
US!

THAT'S RIGHT,  
THE VILLAGE  
GOT ATTACKED  
'CAUSE OF  
THIS GUY!



YOU...



WE HAVE TO  
DO SOMETHING  
OURSELVES!

NO MATTER HOW  
LONG WE WAIT,  
THERE AREN'T  
GOING TO BE  
ANY OFFICIALS  
PATROLLING  
THIS FAR OUT  
FROM THE  
CITY...

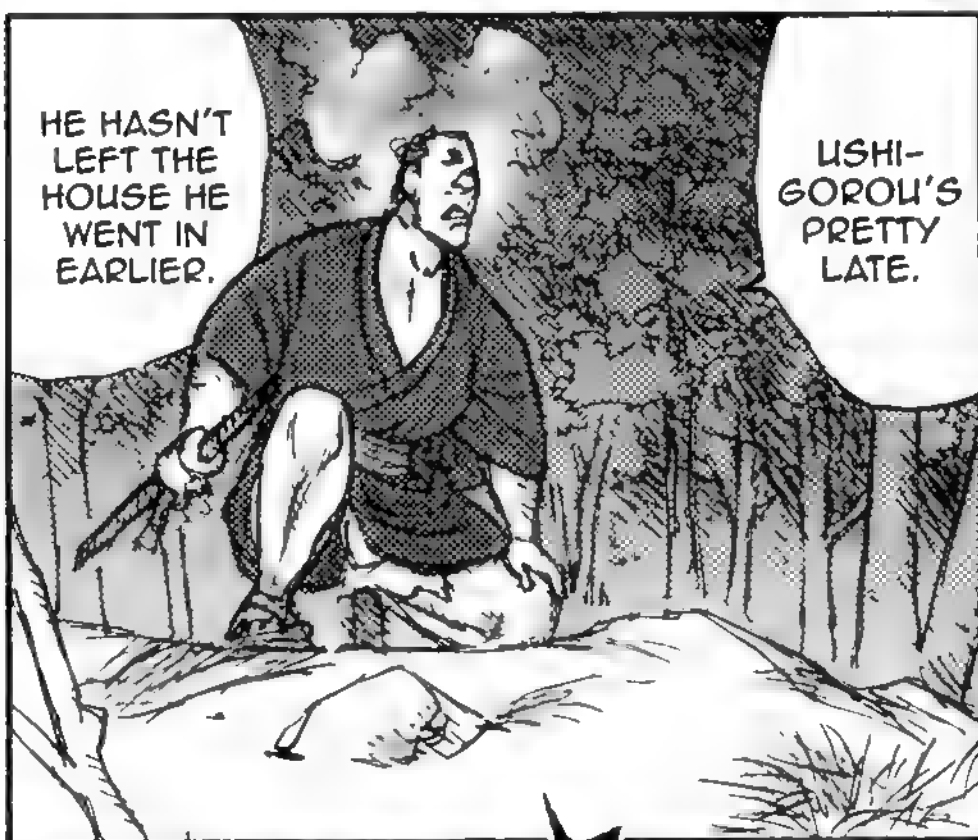


USHIGOROU  
MIGHT BE A  
MIDGET, BUT  
HE'S REALLY  
STRONG!

BE  
CAREFUL!



SFX:  
Pissing,  
splash

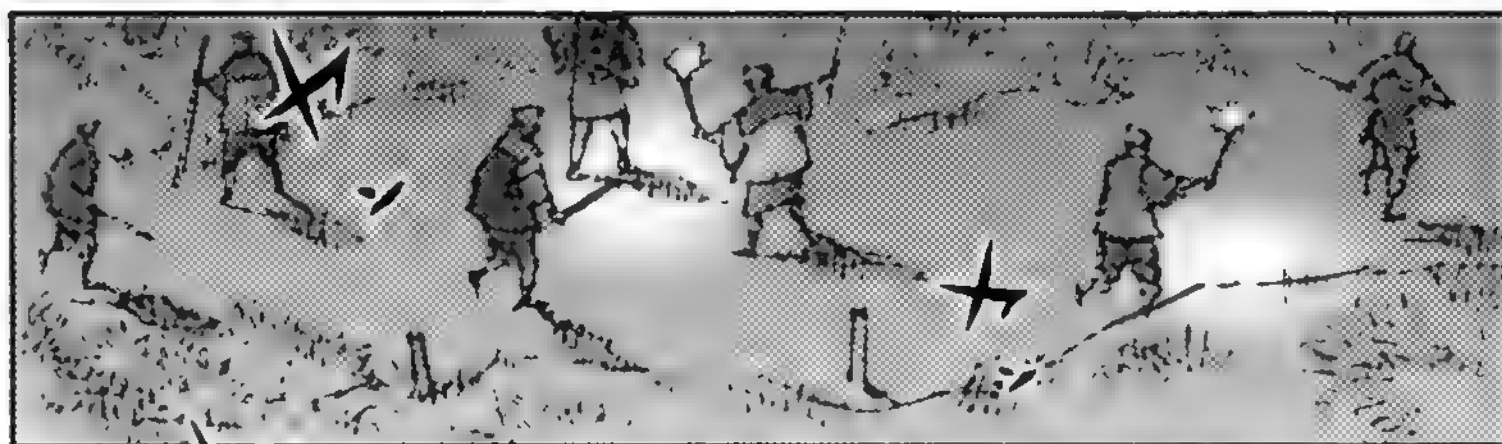


SFX:  
Clang,  
Jerk,  
Startle



WHAT THE  
HELL IS  
HAPPEN-  
ING!?

WHY... WHY  
ARE THEY  
RINGING  
THE BELL?



SFX  
all over  
page:  
Clanging



ALL OF  
THEM ARE  
HEADING  
TOWARDS  
THAT  
HOUSE.

THEY'RE  
GATHERING  
ALL OF THE  
MEN IN THE  
VILLAGE.



COULD  
IT BE...?

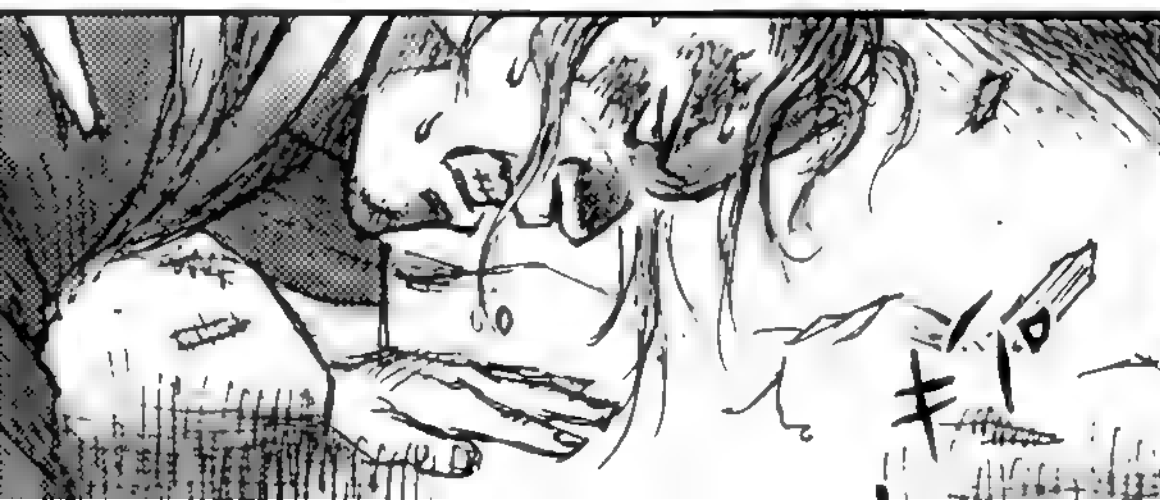




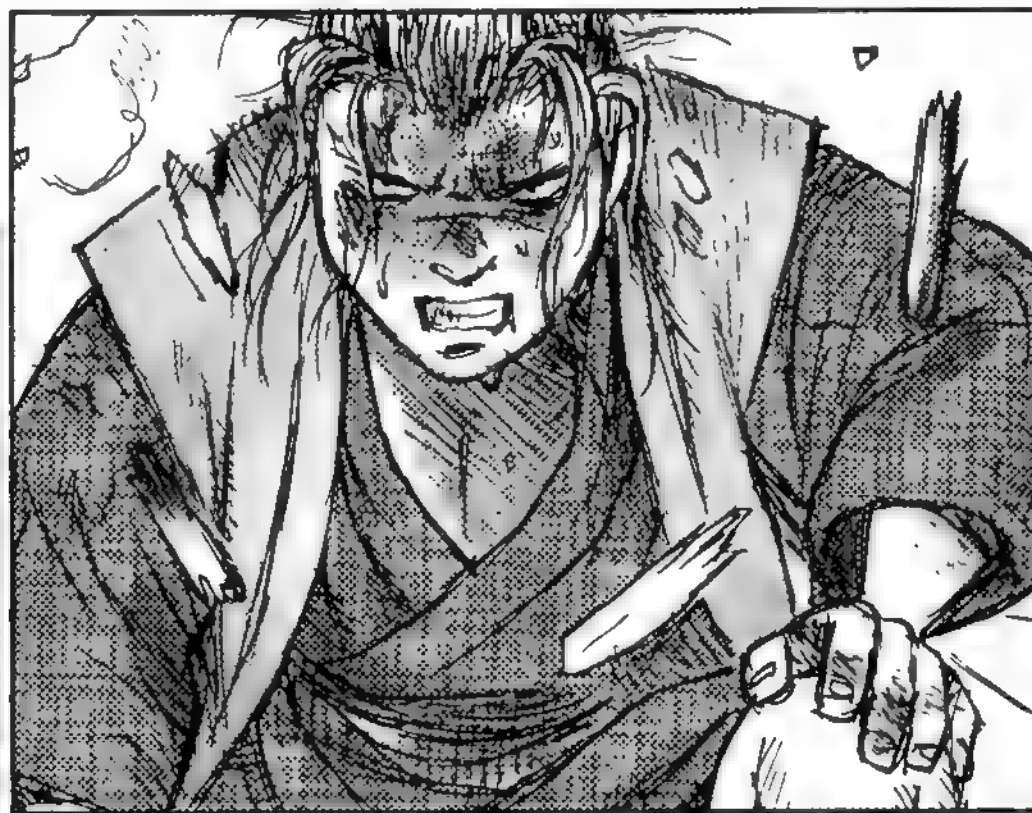
SFX:  
BOOM!



SFX:  
Thud,  
clatter



SFX:  
Clack







**UWA  
AH!**



SFX:  
Bang,  
whack



**DOAAAA!**



SFX:  
Thud

**DON'T  
LET HIM  
ESCAPE!**



SFX:  
Whack!  
Flip!  
Slide!  
GRAB



SFX:  
Grab



SFX:  
Doooooff!





SFX:  
Wobble

THE  
ROPE...

SFX:  
Grrraaagh



SFX:  
Thud,  
roll

SFX:  
Thwack



SFX:  
Crack!



H!...



SFX:  
Whack,  
bang,  
thwack







SFX:  
Glare

**YOU THINK OF  
YOURSELVES  
TOO HIGHLY!**

**YOU LOT...  
FOR PEASANTS  
LIKE YOURSELVES  
TO ATTACK A  
SAMURAI...**



Monthly  
Comic 'War'  
"For Sale On The  
27th Every Month"  
Highly-Praised-  
Serialization!!

SFX:  
Slash!



**IF INSTEAD  
OF A HOE,  
I HAD A  
KATANA...**

After hearing that his village was assaulted by insubordinate ronin, unable to stop himself and dragging Ichizou along, Ushigorou ran into the dark night. There, he learned of his little sister Chiyo's death, and grew to hate his powerlessness as a peasant, remembering the "Unpleasant Past" that revolves around her... Volume 4 set to be released this Winter!!

SFX:  
Thwack!



To be continued



# ICHIGEKI

Presented by: Death Toll Scans



Credits

Raws

Private

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